

PRESS RELEASE

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Head Start Recognizes Sen. Bob Casey, Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, and Rep. Glenn Thompson as Congressional Champions for Children and Families

Pledge and PROMISE Awards presented during Head Start Hill Event

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Head Start Association recognized Sen. Bob Casey and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01) with the 2023 Head Start Pledge Award for keeping the commitment to fulfilling the Head Start pledge and serving America’s most vulnerable children and families. NHSA also awarded Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA-15) the PROMISE (Protecting Our Most Important Students Early) Award for his continued support of Head Start.

"Pennsylvania has a long history of bipartisan support of Head Start by our elected leaders. Senator Casey and Representatives Fitzpatrick and Thompson are excellent examples of this support," said Blair Hyatt, executive director of the Pennsylvania Head Start Association. "Sen. Casey is an outstanding supporter of early learning and all programs that support children and their families. Pennsylvania benefits from his leadership everyday. Rep. Thompson recognizes the importance of Head Start as a foundation for economic development in Pennsylvania by promoting family self-sufficiency and preparing children for success in school and in life. And Rep. Fitzpatrick is nationally recognized for his successful bipartisan work. His leadership will be essential as we work to address the many challenges facing Head families and programs in the 118th Congress."

Reps. Fitzpatrick and Thompson will receive their awards during the annual Head Start Breakfast on the Hill, where congressional champions have an opportunity to address Head Start parents, alumni, and other supporters who traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for the early childhood development program with members of Congress and their staff. NHSA will present Senator Casey with his award when he meets with Head Start advocates.

"The Head Start community is grateful for Sen. Casey, Rep. Fitzpatrick, and Rep. Thompson’s ongoing work to ensure America’s underserved children receive the high-quality education and care they need for a bright future," said NHSA’s Executive Director Yasmina Vinci. "We are

grateful for our champions in Congress and thank them for keeping the commitment to Head Start in both their words and their deeds.”

The breakfast is part of NHSA's 2023 [Winter Leadership Institute](#). Leaders of the Head Start community from across the nation convened for three days of sessions, innovative panels, and meetings with their members of Congress.

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The Pennsylvania Head Start Association advocates for children and families who are economically challenged to ensure all children reach their full potential. As a responsive, collaborative, and thriving organization, we embrace diversity, promote comprehensive services, and unify the early childhood community by leading the charge for professional development, information sharing, and advocacy. Visit paheadstart.org for more information.

The National Head Start Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to the belief that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to succeed in school and in life. The opportunities offered by Head Start lead to healthier, empowered children and families, and stronger, more vibrant communities. NHSA is the voice for more than 1 million children, 270,000 staff and 1,600 Head Start grantees in the United States. Visit nhsa.org for more information.