



May 6, 2013

The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Senator,

The First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan national children's advocacy organization dedicated to making kids the priority in federal policy and budget decisions, **strongly urges you to replace the harmful sequestration cuts with a balanced deficit reduction plan.**

Exempting individual programs or granting the President the flexibility to decide which programs to cut does little to lessen the overall impact of sequestration cuts. Instead of trying to rearrange the deck chairs, we believe these harmful cuts need to be repealed.

Children and families across the nation are feeling the pain as **discretionary investments that matter to kids have been cut by nearly \$4 billion dollars this year as a result of sequestration.** Children have been kicked out of Head Start, families are on the verge of homelessness because of housing cuts, and schools have already reduced staff and services to students. Families depending on emergency unemployment compensation are doing without. **This all comes on top of nearly \$2 billion in additional cuts to discretionary investments since 2010.**

Polling done by First Focus shows the American public overwhelmingly agrees there should be no cuts to investments for kids:

-A Greenberg Quinlan poll showed that **five of the six top priorities that voters wanted to protect from cuts included Head Start, K-12 education, and child nutrition initiatives along with other investments to kids.**

-A Public Opinion Strategies poll showed **tea partiers, moderates, and partisan voters all oppose cuts to investments that impact children,** including education, early childhood and child care, child abuse prevention, and child health among others.

Polling has also shown that **voters believe the Federal government should invest three to four times as much on children than what is currently allotted, which is less than 8 percent.**

Children are not the cause of our fiscal imbalance, and cutting the investments that help them grow is a poor decision that threatens their future. A budget built on the backs of children is a move in the wrong direction.

Sincerely,

Bruce Lesley

Bruce Lesley
President