Administration for Children and Families

Office of Head Start

8th Floor Portal Building

1250 Maryland Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20024

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of strong support for Contra Costa County’s Head Start and Early Head Start program as they re-compete for their long-standing grant to serve the children and families of Contra Costa County. We understand from 45 C.F.R. 1307.5 that funds will be awarded to the organization “that demonstrates that it is the most qualified entity to deliver a high-quality and comprehensive Head Start or Early Head Start program.” We believe that entity to be Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Department Community Services Bureau.

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors has functioned as the governing body for the county’s Head Start programs for over 40 years and for the Early Head Start Program for 12 years. In doing so, we have worked closely with the staff and Policy Council of the Community Services Bureau and have come to embrace our responsibilities with regard to program design, planning, and program and fiscal monitoring and oversight. Over the years we have also publicly acknowledged the program for its innovation and for its many accomplishments, including excellent Federal Reviews and other audits, designation as a National Head Start Association Program of Achievement and Program of Excellence, and awards for numerous achievements by parents and staff, such California Head Start Parent of the Year and Administrator of the Year and National Head Start Association Parent of the Year.

Each of the Supervisors visit Head Start and Early Head Start centers in their districts and acknowledge the high quality early childhood programming that is provided by the Community Services Bureau and their child care partners in the community. Each Supervisor also enjoys the annual joint training of the Board of Supervisors and the Head Start Policy Council.

Awarding these grants to the Contra Costa County Community Services Bureau is best for children and families as the rich resources that all of the county departments offer are woven together to create the best safety net possible to support our economically disadvantaged children and families strive to achieve an optimum quality of life. This, in turn, makes our communities stronger.

We urge to you to sustain the Community Services Bureau’s current level of funding so that they can continue to provide exemplary service to the community by operating the Head Start and Early Head Start program as they are today.

Sincerely,

Mary Nejedly Piepho, County Supervisor, District III

Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors