A STATE OF EMERGENCY

In California there are approximately 600,000 children living in poverty ages 0-5. Of those, only 38% of three and four year olds have access to Head Start. And only 4% of children younger than three have access to Early Head Start.

FAMILY CHALLENGES

By keeping the income limit at a low level, for both Federal and State programs, families are faced with the following barriers and choices:

- Inability to access Head Start and Early Head Start services
- Withdraw from the workforce because they can’t afford child care
- Stay under-employed in order to remain eligible for child care subsidy
- Placing children in unsafe and inadequate child care options

REQUEST: INCREASE INCOME THRESHOLDS

Increase the income limits for Head Start and Early Head Start eligibility, which could be accomplished through the following:

- Congressional changes to the Head Start Act, allowing California a higher income level
- Grant California a waiver similar to Hawaii and Alaska; this would increase the limits for Head Start and Early Head Start eligibility and give more families access to child care

Californian earnings are disproportionate to Federal levels

In 2016, the Federal minimum wage was $15,080

In California, the minimum wage was $20,800

And is set to increase by 30% in 2021

Median Family Income in California

Maximum Income to Qualify for Head Start

California income for a household with two full-time minimum wage earners

FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

\[ \text{FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE} \]

\[ \text{was} \]

\[ \text{$15,080$} \]

\[ \text{In 2016, the FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE was} \]

\[ \text{$20,800$} \]

\[ \text{In California, the minimum wage was} \]

\[ \text{was} \]

\[ \text{California income for a household with two full-time minimum wage earners} \]

\[ \text{$41,600$} \]