

STATEMENT
OF
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VICE CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
ON THE
REAUTHORIZATION
OF THE
HEAD START PROGRAM

The Committee on Indian Affairs meets today to receive testimony on the reauthorization of the Head Start program and particularly the Head Start programs that serve Indian country.

For millions of children nationwide, the Head Start program has proven to be one of the most beneficial aspects of their beginnings in life.

For the children of Indian country and their parents, the Head Start program may well make a critical difference throughout their entire lives.

So it is important that the Head Start program have the flexibility to address the unique needs in Indian country, including the ability to allow instruction in the child's native language.

We have witnesses today who are the experts in Indian Head Start programs, so without further ado, may I call upon the first panel.