

Parents as Teachers national center



2228 Ball Drive
St. Louis, MO 63146

June 16, 2008

The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono
United States House of Representatives
1229 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hirono:

Parents as Teachers National Center enthusiastically endorses the *Providing Resources Early for Kids Act (HR3289)*, which provides state with support to enhance Pre-K programs in their states. We feel strongly that quality pre-kindergarten programs coupled with research-based home visitation programs, such as Parents as Teachers, provide children with the best possible combination of support and resources to help them enter school ready to learn.

Independent research studies show that the school readiness scores of high poverty children who participated in both Parents as Teachers and pre-kindergarten were significantly higher than those children who did not participate in Parents as Teachers or pre-kindergarten. A recent paper published by Dr. Edward Zigler, the Sterling Professor of Psychology at Yale University, in the *Journal of Primary Prevent*, shows that the achievement gains produced by participation in Parents as Teachers and pre-kindergarten were sustained through the third grade. This same research also showed that disadvantaged children who participated in the Parents as Teachers program in combination with preschool were just as ready for kindergarten as their more affluent peers who had no preschool or program participation. The combination of Parents as Teachers and a quality preschool experience effectively eliminated the achievement gap between the two groups.

Thank you for your leadership in support of children and families as evidenced not only by the *Providing Resources Early for Kids Act*, but also through your support of the *Education Begins at Home Act (HR2343)*. We look forward to working with you to advance these complimentary bills.

Sincerely yours,

Susan S. Stepleton
President and CEO