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# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

## RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA IN OPPOSITION TO FEDERAL CUTS TO THE HEAD START PROGRAM

*WHEREAS, the Head Start Program, launched in 1965 as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society initiative, is a comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and family support program designed to break the cycle of poverty by preparing low-income children for success in school and life; and*

*WHEREAS, CommUnify has delivered Head Start services to over 55,000 children and families in Santa Barbara County since 1967, and currently operates 20 campuses countywide, providing high-quality early education to nearly 600 children each year; and*

*WHEREAS, children who participate in Head Start are more likely to graduate high school and attend college, and less likely to face poor health outcomes, enter foster care, or become justice-involved later in life; and*

*WHEREAS, Head Start also supports parents through programs that enhance educational and employment outcomes, reduce stress, improve family stability, and elevate voices through a strong Parents Council and annual representation on CommUnify's Board of Directors; and*

*WHEREAS, Head Start in Santa Barbara County provides over 160,000 nutritious meals annually, as well as free medical, dental, vision, and behavioral wellness screenings, ensuring our most vulnerable children enter school ready to learn and thrive; and*

*WHEREAS, unilateral federal funding reductions to Head Start will have a devastating impact on working families, particularly those experiencing poverty, homelessness, or housing insecurity, and would jeopardize the foundational early learning supports that are essential to an equitable and thriving community.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the County of Santa Barbara affirms the essential role of Head Start in breaking cycles of poverty, promoting healthy development, and preparing children and families for long-term success, and urges the Federal Government to restore and expand funding for Head Start Programs.*

*Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 20th day of May 2025, by unanimous vote of all members present.*



ATTEST:

*Maria Nigro*  
Clerk of the Board

*Ry Lu*

Supervisor - 1st District

*KS*

Supervisor - 2nd District

*Don Ventresca*

Supervisor - 3rd District

*Bob Mella*

Supervisor - 4th District

*S. Swain*

Supervisor - 5th District