

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
FIRST DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
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October 28, 2025

The Honorable Jon Ossoff
United States Senate
455 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Raphael Warnock
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Ossoff and Senator Warnock,

We write today to express concern about your continued support of shutting down the government and the impact it will have on Head Start programs in Georgia. If you do not vote to re-open the government before November 1st, Head Start programs in our state will be unable to access their grant funding and could be forced to close their doors. As a result, more than 6,500 children could lose access to early education, meals, and critical developmental services, and 850 early childhood educators and staff will face potential furloughs.

Head Start has consistently delivered measurable, life-changing results for children and families. These programs provide high-quality early education, nutritious meals, health and developmental screenings, and essential support services for children with disabilities and those experiencing homelessness. The long-term impact is clear: improved academic performance, better health outcomes, higher graduation rates, and reduced involvement in the criminal justice and child welfare systems. When early learning programs are forced to close, parents lose the ability to work, businesses lose valued employees, and entire communities bear the consequences. In Georgia alone, more than 16,000 children and families depend on these services. Yet, because of your continued support to shut down the government, classrooms could soon go dark and hundreds of teachers will be furloughed. The consequences of these shutdown-related closures extend far beyond the classroom. When Head Start programs close, parents cannot work, businesses lose employees, and entire communities feel the strain. Georgia's reputation as the top state to do business depends on strong childcare systems, like Head Start, that keep families working and businesses running.

Instead of holding hardworking Georgia families hostage, I urge you to act immediately to end the government shutdown and keep Head Start programs open and operational so that that no child in Georgia loses access to the care and education they deserve.

Sincerely,



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress