



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CONTACT:**

Wanda Minick  
Executive Director,  
Florida Head Start Association  
wanda@flheadstart.org

## **Head Start Recognizes Rep. Frederica Wilson as Congressional Champion for Children and Families** PROMISE Award presented during Head Start Hill Event

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Head Start Association (NHSA) awarded Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL-24) with the PROMISE (Protecting Our Most Important Students Early) Award for her continued support of Head Start.

“Over her entire career in Congress, Rep. Wilson has worked to provide early childhood educational opportunities to all families, regardless of income or zip code, in Florida and beyond,” said Dr. Maria T. Riestra, president of the Florida Head Start Association. “Rep. Wilson is a former Head Start teacher and coordinator who spent many years in the classroom in the Miami-Dade school district. She understands—first hand—that affordable, safe, and high-quality child care is not only important to working families, it’s important for the children who are our future leaders.

“Congresswoman Wilson is a lifelong champion for children, from her days as teacher, principal, school board member and in the nation’s Capitol,” said Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava. “She has been relentless in her support for early childhood education and improving the health and wellness of children and families through the Head Start Program. We are grateful for her unwavering advocacy.”

PROMISE stands for Protecting Our Most Important Students Early. Every year, NHSA’s PROMISE Awards honor members of the Congress who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to Head Start and to serving our nation’s most vulnerable children and their families.

“The Head Start community is grateful for Rep. Wilson’s ongoing work to ensure America’s underserved children receive the high-quality education and care they need for a bright future,” said NHSA’s Executive Director Yasmina Vinci. “We are grateful for our champions in Congress and thank them for keeping the commitment to Head Start in both their words and their deeds.”

Rep. Wilson will receive the PROMISE Award during the annual Head Start Breakfast on the Hill, where congressional champions have an opportunity to meet with Head Start parents, alumni, and other supporters who traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for the early childhood development program with members of Congress and their staff.

The breakfast is part of NHSA's 2023 Winter Leadership Institute. Leaders of the Head Start community from across the nation convened for three days of sessions, innovative panels, and meetings with their members of Congress.

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The Florida Head Start Association's mission is to enhance and support the capability of local Head Start programs in the delivery of high quality services for our children and families. Visit [flheadstart.org](http://flheadstart.org) for more information.

The National Head Start Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to the belief that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to succeed in school and in life. The opportunities offered by Head Start lead to healthier, empowered children and families, and stronger, more vibrant communities. NHSA is the voice for more than 1 million children, 270,000 staff and 1,600 Head Start grantees in the United States. Visit [nhsa.org](http://nhsa.org) for more information.