

The Honorable Ricardo S. Martinez

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE**

WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF HEAD
START AND EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSISTANCE AND
EDUCATION PROGRAM, ILLINOIS HEAD START
ASSOCIATION, PENNSYLVANIA HEAD START
ASSOCIATION, WISCONSIN HEAD START
ASSOCIATION, FAMILY FORWARD OREGON, and
PARENT VOICES OAKLAND,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR., in his official capacity as
Secretary of Health and Human Services; U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES;
ANDREW GRADISON, in his official capacity as Acting
Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and
Families; ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES; OFFICE OF HEAD START; and TALA
HOOBAN, in her official capacity as Acting Director of
the Office of Head Start,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:25-cv-00781-RSM

**DECLARATION OF
PARENT VOICES
OAKLAND MEMBER
OSBORNIQUE WILLIAMS
IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION
FOR A PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION**

NOTE ON MOTION
CALENDAR:

JUNE 13, 2025

1 I, Osbornique Williams, hereby declare and state as follows:

2 1. I am over eighteen years old, and I have personal knowledge of the facts set
3 forth in this Declaration. I could and would testify competently to those facts if called to be a
4 witness in this case.

5 2. I am a parent member of Parent Voices Oakland, a non-profit organization that
6 organizes, educates, and advocates for affordable, accessible, and quality childcare for
7 families, and particularly low-income families of color, like mine, in and around Oakland,
8 California.

9 3. I am a resident of Oakland, California, and a Black mother of three children –
10 ages three, eight, and fourteen.

11 4. My three-year-old son is currently enrolled in a Head Start program in
12 Oakland.

13 5. Head Start has been so important for my son and for my family. Head Start has
14 given my son an opportunity to learn, grow, develop, and play alongside other children his
15 own age. He enjoys being able to have a routine. Every day, he goes into his classroom, finds
16 his nametag and places it on the board, washes his hand, and sits at the table to start his day
17 with his classmates.

18 6. With three kids, our household is very busy, with a lot going on at all times.
19 Head Start provides a space and setting for my son that is just for him—a setting where he gets
20 to learn, interact, and play with other kids his own age.

21 7. My son is behind his peers in speech and language. Since starting Head Start,
22 my son's speech and ability to communicate with others has improved a lot. In Head Start, my
23 son tries hard to be heard and understood by the other children and teachers around him, and
24 he has made progress in forming sentences.

25 8. The Head Start teachers have been incredibly helpful and supportive in helping
26 my son to learn how to better communicate. His Head Start teachers really take the time and
27 effort to talk to and listen to my son, to get to know him, and to try to understand what he is

1 trying to tell them. It's important for our children to be heard and understood, and Head Start
2 has made that possible for my son.

3 9. Head Start also has helped my son to develop socially by giving him an outlet
4 to be around and play with other children. In addition to helping with his speech, Head Start
5 has helped my son to learn how to share with other children. This is a benefit that we have seen
6 even at home and in interactions with family members.

7 10. Since starting Head Start, my son has gotten access to new experiences and
8 interactions, and has developed a more positive outlook on life, even at a very young age. He
9 has become a happier kid, which makes me happy to see as a parent.

10 11. Head Start also provides my son with access to healthy meals. The program has
11 its own chef, who prepares meals for the children every day. The meals are healthy, nutritious,
12 and not processed. I know my son is eating healthy every day while he is in the program.

13 12. Access to Head Start also means a lot to me as a parent. Head Start has given
14 me the opportunity and ability to focus on myself and what I would like to do. For example,
15 Head Start allowed me to have the time and ability to study for and take my driving test and
16 obtain a driver's license. Without having safe and reliable childcare for my son through Head
17 Start, it would not have been possible for me to get my driver's license. I am also considering
18 going back to school to get my high school diploma, which would not be possible without
19 Head Start's support.

20 13. Access to Head Start means that I am able to go to my doctor's appointments,
21 go grocery shopping, prepare meals for my family, and otherwise take care of my family. Head
22 Start has also given me the time and ability to spend with and strengthen my relationship with
23 my other children. Because of Head Start, I am able to be more focused and present with my
24 other children, including going to my eight-year-old son's sports practices and games to
25 support and spend time with him.

26 14. I am aware that the Head Start program has been under attack by this
27 presidential administration because it claims that Head Start promotes diversity, equity, and

1 inclusion. This concerns me because, based on my understanding of these concepts, there is
2 nothing wrong with promoting them, and instead they are valuable and positive for our
3 children's development. My three-year-old son is Black and multi-racial. It is very important
4 to our family that he is proud of his background and that he is in a Head Start program where
5 there is a wide range of diversity in students, parents, and teachers, and in a Head Start program
6 where diversity is celebrated.

7 15. Losing access to Head Start would be devastating beyond words. Because we
8 cannot afford to pay for pre-school, without Head Start, my three-year-old son would lose
9 access to his education and learning environment. Losing Head Start would have a negative
10 impact on his development, his ability to prepare for school, and his emotional well-being. It
11 would also mean that my son would lose access to the supports that he has to help him with
12 speech and language development, which could undo his progress and set him back even more.

13 16. Losing access to Head Start would also be harmful to me and my family.
14 Without Head Start, I would not be able to pursue the opportunities that I am considering, such
15 as going back to school, or to take care of myself and my family through doctor's appointments,
16 meal preparation, grocery shopping, attending my other children's activities, and spending
17 time with and being present for my other children.

18 17. Head Start is so important to my family and so many other families like ours.
19 We should be increasing access to these programs, not taking them away.

20 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

21
22 Dated: May 15, 2025

/s/ Osbornique Williams

23 Osbornique Williams
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