

**Statement of
Sakhia Whitehead
Head Start Alumnus
Senate Budget Committee Hearing
Investing in our Future: The Impact of Federal Budget Decisions on Children
June 26, 2013**

Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Sessions, and Members of this Committee, thank you for inviting me to speak to you today. My name is Sakhia Whitehead. I am ten years old and just finished fourth grade at Garrison Elementary School.

I graduated the Head Start program at the Edward C. Mazique Child Center five years ago, but I do remember how much I liked it. I remember them teaching me how to read and write my name. I also remember sometimes seeing the doctor there to get a checkup.

Head Start helped me get prepared for Kindergarten. When I got to Kindergarten, I already knew how to read and write. But my new classmates did not. So Kindergarten was pretty easy for me.

I tell my brothers all the time how much I loved Head Start. I tell them it can help them in school, because I know it helped me to be the Honor Roll student that I am today. I have been on the Honor Roll since I started elementary school and I'm very proud of that. I want my brothers to follow in my footsteps.

Today, my favorite subject in school is math, which not many people enjoy. But when I grow up, I want to be a teacher so that I can continue to teach children like myself and help them to succeed.

Thank you again for listening to me today.