



FIRST FOCUS
CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN

June 19, 2012

Dear Senator:

I am writing on behalf of the First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan advocacy organization committed to making children and their families a priority in federal policy and budget decisions, **to express our support for Senator Murray's amendment #2455 to S. 3240**. The amendment, to be voted on later this afternoon, requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to produce a detailed report on the full effects of the defense and nondefense budget sequestration for fiscal year 2013.

This amendment will clarify the exact amount that will be cut from next year's budget. Estimates from the Congressional Budget Office, the Congressional Research Service, and other outside organizations all differ slightly, but it is clear that these cuts will dramatically affect investments in children. Investments to education, children's housing, and early childhood will likely be particularly hard hit. It is absolutely necessary that we understand sequestration's full impact, and only OMB has that information.

At a time when families are struggling, it's more important than ever to invest our limited resources in our nation's children, our best long term investment. As we debate economic solutions, children cannot be left out of the conversation. We owe our children more than a fiscally sound nation. We owe them the chance for health, happiness, and prosperity.

The First Focus Campaign for Children has always been a strong advocate for increased budget transparency, and this amendment is a step in the right direction toward not only understanding exactly how sequestration will impact children, but what balanced solutions might be needed to prevent these cuts from taking place.

Sincerely,

Bruce Lesley
President
First Focus Campaign for Children