



August 19, 2005

Dear Friends:

This week, I visited a Head Start program in St. Paul, the first of its kind in the country, that focuses on early childhood mental health. Head Start is the nation's most successful early education program and ensures comprehensive services with a strong commitment to the social and intellectual development of all children. Unfortunately, only 45 percent of eligible Minnesota children are served by Head Start due to severe underfunding. I will oppose any cuts that threaten the integrity of a comprehensive early education. All children should have the opportunity to grow and succeed.



I also had the opportunity to meet with third and fourth graders from Mendota Heights, South St. Paul and West St. Paul and camp leaders attending a

three-day Safety Camp at Kaposia Park in South St. Paul. Sponsored by the South St. Paul VFW Post 295 and the local Parks and Recreation Departments, the camp is held every August.

Children are monitored by camp counselors who lead them from one police station to another to learn about aspects of everyday safety, including DARE education, stranger danger, how and when to use 911, as well as safety around electricity, fire and boats.

Have a healthy and safe summer!

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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