

State Senator Laura Kelly Recognized as State Champion

The Kansas Head Start Association (KHSA) recognized Kansas State Senator Laura Kelly for her leadership on issues that positively affect young children with a State Champion Award at its Region VII awards ceremony on April 6, 2011. Mary Baskett, Executive Director of Kansas Head Start Association, presented the award to Senator Kelly.



Kelly has represented Kansas Senate District 18, which includes Topeka, since 2005. She serves as Ranking Minority Member of three committees: Senate Ways and Means, Public Health and Welfare and the Kansas Public Retirement System Select Committee. She was appointed by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in 2003 to the Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, which administers the Children's Initiatives Fund -- a major source of support for early learning programs.

During her time in the Kansas legislature, Kelly has been a dedicated and tireless champion for young children and families. Her leadership has been instrumental in increasing the number of children and families in Kansas Early Head Start by 50 percent over the past five years, as well as in creating the Early Childhood Block Grant, which funds evidence-based programs in multiple counties across the state. Kelly's influence extends beyond the Statehouse through her strong advocacy for children at both local and state levels.