



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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MARY KAY LEONARD
DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE
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July 1, 1986

Cambridge School Committee
456 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02138

Attention: Alfred Fantini, Chair
Budget Subcommittee

Dear Members of the School Committee:

At a recent Board meeting of the Cambridge Council for Children the issue of the proposed cut of \$207,000 to the Title I/Chapter I Entitlement Program was brought to our attention. We understand that the 15% cut is a result of a combination of factors including Gramm-Rudman, and that even greater cuts are proposed for the future. We urge the School Committee and the City Council to take appropriate action to ensure that the program remains at the current level of funding and that children who are already disadvantaged are not deprived even more.

It is our understanding that the current program serves approximately 900 to 1000 students who are among the most academically and economically disadvantaged students in the city, and that the program has received numerous citations for its past successes. That the program is available through the public school to Cambridge students in private and parochial as well as public schools demonstrates a real commitment on the part of the school system to all Cambridge students, and to helping those who most need help.

We urge the School Committee to act on behalf of these children and take action to maintain the program at its current funding level. We urge the City Council, if need be, to obtain the \$207,000 from the city's General Fund. We also urge both the School Committee and the City Council to actively pursue new avenues to fund the program to offset any future cuts and/or to expand the program to meet the needs of all eligible students. The skills the program is designed to foster, reading, writing and arithmetic, are basic to the future productive life of these children; and too important to be endangered by arbitrary budget cuts at either the federal or the local level.

Sincerely yours,

Neal Michaels
Neal Michaels, Co-chair
Cambridge Council For Children

cc: City Council members
Robert Healy, City Manager
Susan Noonan-Foster, CTA

Comm. from Neil Michaels, Co-Chair, Cambridge Council for Children, Mass. Executive Office of Human Services Re: proposed cut of \$207,000. to the Title I/Chapter I Entitlement Program; said comm. urging both the City Council & School Committee to take action to maintain the program at its current level of funding.

In City Council,

September 8, 1986

Placed on File
Copy to City Manager

copy sent to the City Manager 9/10/86 ah