Washington, D.C. — Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) issued the following statement in reaction to last night's House vote to dramatically alter the popular Head Start program. Blumenauer voted against the legislation, arguing that it will significantly weaken this highly successful early childhood education program. The legislation would allow states to lower standards for Head Start programs and cut vital services for low-income children and their families.

"It makes no sense to gamble with Head Start when we know the program works," said Blumenauer. "Across the country, states are dealing with an economic crisis and cutting back on services. The financial outlook in Oregon is already bleak. This legislation would further jeopardize families who are already losing services. By approving this legislation I fear that the leadership in the House is taking a gamble with our children."