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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Hands-In for Head Start Drives Home Impact of Funding Cuts**

*Head Start families deliver children's handprint artwork to  
Congresswoman **Elizabeth Esty** CT 5<sup>th</sup> District*

**New Britain, CT** – Head Start children today delivered murals of handprints to **Congress woman Elizabeth Esty's** district office to call attention to the devastating cuts made by the federal budget sequester. The across-the-board, 5.1% cut to Head Start funding is causing programs to close early, eliminate slots and furlough staff. In **New Britain, CT** alone, as many as **34** children could lose access to Head's Start's comprehensive early learning services.

In addition to delivering the children's artwork, parents, teachers and children from **HRA New Britain Head Start Program** invited **Congress woman Elizabeth Esty** to visit their center to see first-hand the critical education, health and support services Head Start offers the local community.

"The artwork spotlights the lives touched and hands held by Head Start," said **Michael Wrice, Policy Council Representative**. "Today, **Congress woman Elizabeth Esty** received a powerful reminder that little hands hold big futures. Every hand represents a future too much at risk to mistakenly believe that cutting Head Start will balance the budget."

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