



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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Nilsa Orama
Chair

Angel D. Mescain
District Manager

November 24, 2020

Hon. Richard Carranza, Chancellor
New York State Education Department
Board of Regents, Regents Office
State Education Building
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, N.Y. 12234

Dear Chancellor Carranza,

We are writing to express our support for the reevaluation of the decision to significantly reduce the allocation of seats to the East Harlem Council for Human Service's Bilingual Head Start Program at the site located at 440 East 116th Street.

The Bilingual Head Start program has been a longstanding contributor of quality educational services to our community, especially for the Spanish speaking immigrant population in our district. If the reduction of funding for the program is finalized, we believe the children in the Bilingual Head Start Program and their families will suffer negative consequences, including lack of access to program that welcomes and facilitates communication for Spanish speaking families, lack access to health and nutritional programs that have a demonstrated effect on the health of the students, and lack of access to culturally competent programming that is able to give students the tools they need to thrive in their educational journeys.

We trust that the New York City Department of Education shares our interest in educational equity and access to quality education, and ask you therefore to provide adequate support to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the East Harlem Council for Human Services.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at chair@cb11m.org.

Sincerely,

Nilsa Orama
Chair
Community Board 11

cc: Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Robert J. Rodriguez, New York State Assembly
Hon. Jose Serrano, New York State Senate
Dr. Kristy De La Cruz, Department of Education
David Giordano, Manhattan Community Board 11
Denilyn Arciaga, Manhattan Community Board 11