

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

Readers' Views

Head Start helped lawyer improve lot

TO THE EDITOR:

I read with great interest the story on the criticism of the Head Start programs in the area. My parents married young. My father enlisted in the Army during the Vietnam War, while my mother remained home. She quit high school after the 10th grade and had no marketable skills. Obviously, we were quite poor.

I have vivid memories of her walking me to what I thought was a pre-school, but I later learned it was a Head Start program in the Kinsman area in Cleveland. I re-

member learning songs, eating graham crackers and pineapple juice, dressing up and naps.

They contributed to my mother's understanding that education was important and stressed she needed to start working on it as early as possible. Although my family lived below the poverty line most of my youth, I earned a bachelor's degree and a law degree. It helped me escape poverty, and my children know nothing of the struggles my family had in my youth.

I hope others who participated in the Head Start program stand up to be counted to show that it is a vital program to fight the vicious cycle of poverty.

— James McLean
Forest Park

LETTERS

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