

Public Preschool Talking Points for Conference Committee

FOR YOUR USE ONLY: DO NOT PASS OUT TO LEGISLATORS

KEY POINTS: PLEASE BE SURE TO MAKE THESE POINTS IN YOUR CALLS

- Public Preschool is an evidence-based program that provides a high-quality early learning experience for children in families below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Many of Ohio's high-poverty districts depend on public preschool to help prepare our most at-risk children to enter school ready to learn, avoiding higher costs down the road for special education, grade retention, and other remediation.
- Please restore the \$23 million taken out of Public Preschool! That \$23 million will ensure that we will be able to continue to serve 6,400 children per year in our public preschool program- a vital support for our schools and our families.
- Please fund public preschool at the executive proposed level of \$34.8 million per year.

Optional Talking Points:

- High-quality early learning experiences have been proven to have a positive impact on children throughout their lifetime - reducing the need for special education and grade repetition and increasing educational attainment and lifetime earnings
- In a budget where everyone was told there was going to be no money, hundreds of millions of dollars were given to many programs at the same time millions were cut from our future workforce and the only programs proven to turnaround our states' economy.
- Research shows us that a lack of investment in high-quality early care and education makes our investment in the K-12 and higher education systems less effective and efficient.

Tips for making phone calls:

- Clearly state your name and where you live.
- Be prepared to make your point in several sentences.
- Ask for a response that includes the elected official's position.

- Realize that the staff member answering phones may have been instructed not to make detailed comments about the issues; this is done in letters so that elected official's position is not misrepresented.
- Follow up with a letter if possible. Mail, fax or e-mail it to the legislator's office.

Please call ALL of the following Representatives and Senators and the Governor's Office- it does not matter if they do not directly represent you! These are the members that will influence the conference committee and need to get hundreds of calls by the end of next week. Remember, ask you staff and parents to make calls! Ask you churches and your board, and anyone else who cares about young children!!

Governor's Office: Janetta King, Policy Director, (614) 466-3555

Representative Garrison: 614-644-8728

Representative Budish: 614-466-5441

Senator Carey: 614-466-8156

Representative Batchelder: 614-466-8140

Representative Amstutz: 614-466-1474

Senator Cates: 614-466-8072

Senator Harris: 614-466-8086

Senator Gillmor: 614-466-8049

Senator Gibbs: 614-466-7505

Please email DAVID HOWARD at dhoward@groundworkohio.org to let us know how many calls you have made so we can track our coverage. Thank you!