

November 15, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

We, members of the Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Caucus, are writing today to thank you for your commitment to growing access to high-quality pre-k and to express our support for increased funding for Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts and Head Start Supplemental Assistance within the Department of Education budget.

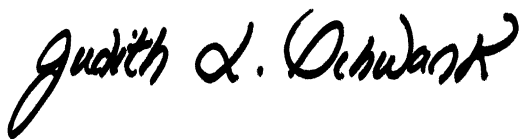
As you know, investments in high-quality pre-k have among the highest return on investment of any social program, leading to savings in K-12 resulting from reductions in the need for special education and grade repetition as well as savings in criminal justice involvement and incarceration. Since you took office, more than 6,000 eligible children have gained access to high-quality programs. Despite these historic gains, more than 120,000 eligible three-and-four-year-olds lack access to publicly funded high-quality pre-k this year in the commonwealth.

Looking ahead to your 2017-18 state budget proposal, we again urge you to answer the call and position Pennsylvania to provide access to Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts and Head Start State Supplemental Assistance for all eligible children and begin to address middle-class pre-k affordability concerns by 2022.

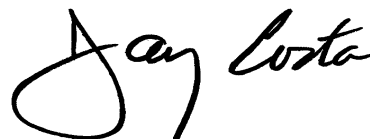
As you develop your budget proposal for the 2017-18 fiscal year, we respectfully ask that you prioritize expanding state-fund pre-k opportunities to an additional 10,000 eligible children by including \$85 million in new pre-k funding in your proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of this budget request.

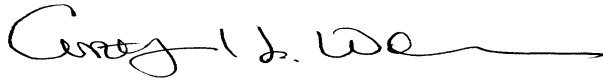
Sincerely, etc.



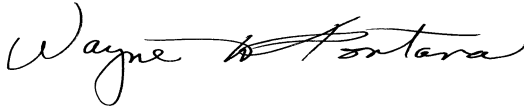
Judith L. Schwank
State Senator – 11th District




Jay Costa
Democratic Leader
State Senator - 43rd District



Anthony H. Williams
State Senator – 8th District



Wayne Fontana
State Senator – 42nd District



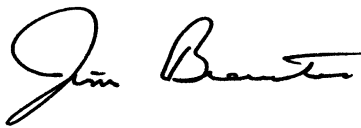
Lisa Boscola
State Senator - 18th District



Daylin Leach
State Senator - 17th District



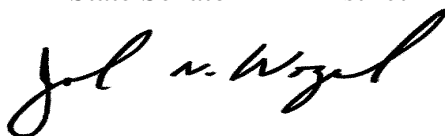
Christine Tartaglione
State Senator - 2nd District



James Brewster
State Senator - 45th District



Art Haywood
State Senator – 4th District



John Wozniak
State Senator - 35th District



Shirley Kitchen
State Senator – 3rd District



Vincent Hughes
State Senator – 7th District



Lawrence Farnese
State Senator - 1st District



John Yudichak
State Senator – 14th District



John Blake
State Senator – 22nd District



John P. Sabatina Jr.
State Senator - 5th District



Andrew E. Dinniman
State Senator – 19th District



Rob Teplitz
State Senator - 15th District



Sean Wiley
State Senator – 49th District

