



March 6, 2017

Dear Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

As members of the Pre-K for PA Leadership Council, we thank you for your commitment to growing access to high-quality pre-k. Over the last two budget cycles, more than 6,200 eligible children have gained access to high-quality programs like Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts and Head Start State Supplemental Assistance. Despite these historic gains, almost 113,000 eligible three- and four-year-olds lack access to publicly funded high-quality pre-k in the commonwealth.

Under the Pre-K for PA banner, Pennsylvania's mayors, county commissioners, pediatricians, law enforcement and military leaders, business leaders, chambers, educators and even all-star athletes have joined tens of thousands of parents in urging greater state investment in high-quality pre-k.

Looking ahead to the 2017-18 state budget, we again urge you to answer this 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.

Specifically, we ask you to expand state-funded pre-k opportunities to an additional 8,400 eligible children by supporting the proposed \$75 million increase in new pre-k funding in the final 2017-18 state budget.

Research is clear that continued investments in high-quality pre-k will set us on a path to reduce educational, public welfare and incarceration costs and have the most important added benefit of ensuring that all children are ready to succeed.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider this correspondence.

Sincerely,

Dennis Benchoff, Lieutenant General (Ret.), United States Army, Mission: Readiness
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

George Book, President & CEO, West Shore Chamber of Commerce
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Jackie Buhn, Principal & CEO, AthenianRazak LLC
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Joe Casey, Executive Director, PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Ron Cowell, President, Education Policy and Leadership Center
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Mark DiRocco, Executive Director, PA Association of School Administrators
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Robert Fyock, Sheriff, Indiana County Sheriff's Office
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Thomas Gluck, Executive Director, PA Association of Intermediate Units
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Paul Healey, Executive Director, PA Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Eric Holmes, Superintendent, York City School District
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Joe Hurd, President & CEO, Blair County Chamber of Commerce
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Bill Isler, President & CEO, Fred Rogers Company
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Bill Jackson, President & Chief Professional Officers, United Way of Erie
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Roger Janes, Insurance Broker/Consultant, First National Insurance Agency LLC
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

David John, Executive Director, PA State Alliance of YMCAs
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Garfield Jones, Vice President – Sales, NeuroCall Teleneurology
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Bill Jones, President & CEO, United Way of Wyoming Valley
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Nathan Mains, Executive Director, PA School Boards Association
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

John Marsico, Department Manager, The Commonwealth Medical College
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Paula McWilliams, President & CEO, Heritage Community Initiatives

Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Jerry Oleksiak, President, Pennsylvania State Education Association
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Dennis Puhalla, Head of School, Wyoming Valley Montessori School
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Ajay Raju, Co-Chariman & CEO, Dilworth Paxson LLC
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Chris Reilly, Commissioner, York County Commissioner
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Mike Ross, President, Franklin County Area Development Corporation
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Kristen Rotz, President, United Way of Pennsylvania
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Brian Schreiber, Executive Director, Jewish Community Center
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Nick Scott, Jr., Vice-President, Scott Enterprises
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Heseung Song, President & CEO, Mighty Engine
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Sandra Strauss, Director of Public Advocacy, PA Council of Churches
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Stephen Tang, President & CEO, University City Science Center
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Kevin Thomas, Executive Director, PA District Kiwanis International
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Art Thomas, Vice President, Meck-Tech Inc.
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Floyd Titus, President, J. Feltric Metals
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

John Touey, Principal, Salveson Stetson Group
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Karen Tyler, Head of School, Erie Day School
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Judith von Seldeneck, Founder, Chairman & CEO, Diversified Search
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

James Waddington, Senior Director – Business Development, DRS Technologies
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Tay Waltenbaugh, Executive Director, Westmoreland Community Action
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Tom Wilson, Rear Admiral (Ret.), United States Navy, Mission: Readiness
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Jake Witherell, Chief Operating Officer, Schell Games
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council