



June 13, 2017

Dear Legislator,

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.

Continuing with 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 assistance 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,

Ed Albert, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

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

Georgia Berner, President & CEO, Berner International
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

George Book, Jr., 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

Denise S. Cesare, Former President & CEO, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission

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

Bernard Dagenais, President & CEO, Main Line Chamber of Commerce
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

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

Gary Drapek, President & CEO, United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Bob Esch, Vice President, External Affairs, American Refining Group
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council
Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission

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

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

Franco Harris, Former NFL Player, Superbakery
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

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

Daniel B. Hoover, President & CEO, Roaring Spring Blank Book Company
Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission

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
Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission

Bill Jackson, President and CPO, United Way of Erie
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

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

James Johnson, Ph.D., Program Coordinator, Early Childhood Education Program,
Pennsylvania State University
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Bill Jones, President & CEO, United Way of Wyoming Valley
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Allen Kukovich, CEO, Attorney at Law
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Ken Lawrence, County Commissioner Vice Chair, Montgomery Board of Commissioners
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

Karen Marsdale, President & CEO, Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce & Industry
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

James Micsky, Jr., Executive Director, United Way of Mercer County
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Phyllis Mundy, Former State Representative, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
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Jerry Oleksiak, President, Pennsylvania State Education Association
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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

Pedro Ramos, President & CEO, The Philadelphia Foundation
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

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

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

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

Sandra Strauss, Director of Public Advocacy, Pennsylvania Council of Churches
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Vincentina C. Taylor, President, Waveline Direct, LLC
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Kevin Thomas, Executive Director, Pennsylvania District Kiwanis International
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Art Thomas, Vice President, Meck-Tech Inc.
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Floyd Titus, President, J. Feltric Metals
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John Touey, Principal, Salvesson Stetson Group
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

James G. Vaughan, Executive Director, Pennsylvania State Education Association
Pre-K for PA Leadership Council

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

Patrick Ward, President & CEO, United Way of Greater Hazleton
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Andrew B. Williford, Vice-President, Human Resources, Volvo Construction Equipment
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Tom Wilson, Rear Admiral (Ret.), United States Navy, Mission: Readiness
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Jake Witherell, Chief Operating Officer, Schell Games
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Todd Wolynn, President & CEO, Kids Plus Pediatrics
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