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## Right call on education

**Commitment to long-range policies always is difficult for politicians, who usually want to see results while they're still in office.**

It's a great credit, then, to U.S. Sen. Bob Casey Jr. and Gov. Ed Rendell that they have become leading advocates of early-childhood education.

Mr. Rendell has made early-childhood education a cornerstone of his broader education policy. This year the governor's proposed budget includes \$25 million to help more school districts establish all-day kindergarten. He also has proposed a \$75 million commitment to making pre-kindergarten programs available to an additional 11,100 children.

As in many other states, the demand for pre-kindergarten education in Pennsylvania exceeds the supply, especially for kids from low-income families.

Mr. Casey has introduced the Prepare All Kids Act of 2007, which would make \$5 billion in grants available to help states provide pre-K education, while establishing high standards for teachers, class sizes, curriculum and family participation, all of which have been shown to be components of long-term educational success.

Elected officials at the state and federal levels, unfortunately, often are judged mostly by their ability to deliver pork for physical projects. The initiatives proposed by Mr. Casey and Mr. Rendell are more about building engineers than building bridges. The General Assembly should adopt Mr. Rendell's proposals; Congress should adopt those promoted by Mr. Casey.

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