

Dear Editor:

Investments in Pennsylvania's children are an investment in the future and that is why I encourage the Pennsylvania General Assembly to support the Governor's modest increase to Child Care Works that will enable more working parents to stay working while their children are in safe and supportive child care.

However, the Governor's budget cut \$1.2 million dollars from two highly successful programs that target children at risk of education failure Head Start and Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts.

Nearly 75% of children who attended Pre-K Counts in FY 2008-2009 finished the school year with age-appropriate proficiency in literacy, numeracy and social skills.

Research shows that young children who are exposed to high-quality pre-K have greater academic success, experience fewer grade retentions, need less special education remediation and are more likely to graduate from high school. Once they graduate from high school, they are likelier to earn family-sustaining wages, contribute to the tax base and require less welfare involvement than their peers who did not attend pre-K.

Without a doubt pre-K and other early childhood education investments positively impact students, schools and communities in our area as well as across Pennsylvania. We need to restore funding for Head Start and Pre-K Counts. Our future is our children – a solid investment with guaranteed returns.

Sincerely,

Name

insert your contact info here