

Hon. Mike Turzai  
Speaker, Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
139 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

May 24, 2016

Dear Speaker Turzai,

You have heard from many of us on the life altering benefits that high quality pre-kindergarten can provide to our Commonwealth's youngest learners. You have also heard of the limited availability of such programs serving only one out of every six preschool age children in Pennsylvania.

The 2015-16 state budget included \$30 million in additional funding for PA Pre-K Counts and Head Start Supplemental Assistance programs – expanding access to more than 6,000 at-risk children. While this investment was a positive step, the fact remains that more than 120,000 income eligible three- and four-year-olds do not have access each year due to insufficient funding.

We encourage you to work with your colleagues to cement bi-partisan consensus around a multi-year goal for growing access to high quality pre-k for all of the income eligible children and begin looking at pre-k affordability issues regarding middle class families.

Specifically, we ask your support of \$90 million in additional funding as part of the 2016-17 final state budget as yet another incremental step towards the above-mentioned goal.

Such an investment will set us on a path to reduce educational, public welfare and incarceration costs and have the most important added benefit of ensuring brighter futures for more of the Commonwealth's children.

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

Respectfully submitted,

**Mark Schweiker**, 44<sup>th</sup> Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Ed Rendell**, 45<sup>th</sup> Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Mary Stengel Austen**, President & CEO, Tierney Communications

**Joe Bard**, Executive Director, PA Association of Rural and Small Schools

**Bruce Bartels**, Former President, WellSpan Health

**Dennis Benchoff**, Lieutenant General (Ret.), United States Army

**Don Bernhard**, Former Director, Community Affairs, PP&L

**Betsy Bort**, Vice-President, Commercial Lending, Erie Bank

**Steven Bradley**, Chairman, African-American Chamber of Commerce

**Jim Buckheit**, Executive Director, PA Association of School Administrators

**Anthony Campisi**, President & CEO, Glatfelter Insurance Group

**Denise Cesare**, Former President & CEO, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania

**Robert Celeski**, Chairman, Employee Community Service Fund of GE

**David Cohen**, Senior Executive Vice-President, Comcast Corporation

**Pete Danchak**, President – Northeast PA, PNC Bank

**Phil Devorris**, President & CEO, Blair Companies

**Ron DiNicola**, Partner, DiNicola Law Offices

**Stephanie Doliveira**, Vice-President, Human Resources, Sheetz Inc.

**Bob Esch**, Vice-President External Affairs, American Refining Group

**Tim Fallon**, Chief Executive Officer, PBS-39

**Varsovia Fernandez**, Senior Vice-President, Phila. Market Leader, Customers Bank

**Frank Ford**, CEO – Allentown Campus, St. Luke's University Health Network

**Sara Furlong**, Executive Communications Coordinator, American Refining Group

**Robert Fyock**, Sheriff, Indiana County Sheriff's Office

**Jeff Gayman**, Senior Vice-President, Retail Banking & Consumer Lending, Orrstown Bank

**Thomas Gluck**, Executive Director, PA Association of Intermediate Units

**Brad Gosser**, Executive Director and Vice-President, Greenville-Reynolds Dev. Corporation

**Michael Hanes**, President & CEO, Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts

**Bill Hankowsky**, Chairman, President & CEO, Liberty Property Trust

**Dave Hawk**, Chairman of the Board, Gertrude Hawk Chocolates

**Paul Healey**, Executive Director, PA Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals

**Fritz Heinemann**, President & CEO, EconomicsPennsylvania

**Tara Hemmer**, Area Vice-President, Waste Management of Greater Mid-Atlantic

**Tom Hogan**, District Attorney, Chester County District Attorney's Office

**Dan Hoover**, President & CEO, Roaring Spring Blank Book Company

**Joe Hurd**, President & CEO, Blair County Chamber of Commerce

**Renee Cardwell Hughes**, Chief Executive Officer, American Red Cross SE PA Chapter

**Bill Isler**, President & CEO, Fred Rogers Company

**Kathy Killian**, Vice-President of Human Resources & Customer Services, Philadelphia Phillies

**Tom King**, Chief of Police, State College Police Department

**James Kinneer**, Vice-President, Indiana Regional Medical Center

**Robert Krasne**, Chief Executive Officer, Steinman Communications

**Jay Kshatri**, Chairman of the Board, Community Services for Children, Inc.

**Allen Kukovich**, Attorney At Law

**Keith Leaphart**, President & CEO, Replica Creative Inc.

**Alice Lindenauer**, Managing Director, Global Human Resources, Hamilton Lane

**Jerry Maginnis**, Office Managing Partner (Ret.), Phila. Office, KPMG LLP

**Nathan Mains**, Executive Director, PA School Boards Association

**Ed Martin**, Chief Executive Officer, Goodx.com

**Dwight Mathis**, Market Executive, Merrill Lynch

**Rob McNeill**, Managing Partner, Deloitte, LLP – Greater Philadelphia Region

**Paula McWilliams**, President & CEO, Heritage Community Initiatives

**Phyllis Mundy**, State Representative (Ret.), 120<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

**Dennis Noonan**, Vice-President, Sales & Marketing, Ford Business Machines

**Jerry Oleksiak**, President, Pennsylvania State Education Association

**Dave Patti**, President & CEO, Pennsylvania Business Council

**Kathleen Pavelko**, President & CEO, WITF Public Media

**Joseph Peluso**, Management Consultant

**Phil Peterson**, Deputy-Director, ReadyNation

**Norm Rich**, Former President & CEO, Weis Markets Inc.

**Kristen Rotz**, President, United Way of Pennsylvania

**Brian Schreiber**, Executive Director, Jewish Community Center

**Nick Scott, Jr.**, Vice-President, Scott Enterprises

**Judith von Seldeneck**, Founder, Chairman & CEO, Diversified Search

**Sandra Strauss**, Director of Public Advocacy, PA Council of Churches

**Sam Talarico**, President, Northwestern Region – PSEA

**Stephen Tang**, President & CEO, University City Science Center

**Vincentina Taylor**, President, Waveline Direct, LLC

**Art Thomas**, Vice-President, Meck-Tech, Inc.

**Kevin Thomas**, Executive Director, PA District Kiwanis International

**John Touey**, Principal, Salveson Stetson Group

**James Waddington**, Director Strategic Marketing Solutions, Lockheed-Martin

**R. Seth Williams**, District Attorney, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office

**Andrew Williford**, Vice-President, Volvo Construction Equipment Operations Americas

**Tom Wilson**, Rear Admiral (Ret.), United States Navy

**Colby Windholz**, Vice-President of Business Banking, First National Bank

**Jake Witherell**, Chief Operating Officer, Schell Games

**Todd Wolynn**, President & CEO, Kids Plus Pediatrics

**Suzanne Yunghans**, Executive Director, PA Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics