

## Candidates Early Childhood Education Survey Results

The Children Matter Action Fund is surveying all candidates for Pennsylvania House and Senate seats to learn more about their views on childcare and early childhood education. We invite you to learn more by reviewing their responses below; by contacting their campaigns; and by following them on social media. Let them know your views on the importance of ensuring young children in Pennsylvania get the early education supports they need and deserve.

Name: **Lindsay Drew**

Website: <http://www.drewforstaterep.com>

Current Job: **Self Employed**

Social Media: **@LindsayforPA106**

Campaign Contact Person: **Ben Hoffman**

You are running for election in which

Campaign Contact Cell Phone: **646-546-6655**

House or Senate District?: **House District X**

Campaign Contact Email Address: **Ben@drewforstaterep.com**

**Q: What are your views on the benefits, or drawbacks, of allocating additional state funds for high-quality early learning education?**

**A:** Early learning has been proven to lay a foundation for long-term learning and strengthen performance in K-12, and access to that should not be restricted based on wealth status. Our students of all ages should always be our highest priority.

**Q: Will you support increasing annual investments in the Pre-K Counts and Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program line items?**

**A:** Yes, it is critical to invest in our children as early as possible in order to pave the way for their future success.

**Q: How important, or unimportant, is expanding access to high-quality child care to working families in your district?**

**A:** As a single working mom I have faced the challenge of obtaining affordable child care, so I know first hand just how important expanding access is. Lack of access to quality affordable care is one of the greatest barriers to entry in the workplace for working parents.

**Q: If you support increased state investment in subsidized child care for infants and toddlers at the campaign's recommended levels, how will you help the campaign expand child care for working families? OR If you do not support the proposed increases in access to child care, please explain why.**

**A:** I will support any measures that expand investment in subsidized child care and/or state-provided maternity leave for all working people.

Q: Improved parenting skills, increased family economic self-sufficiency, improved maternal and child health and reducing abuse and neglect are just a few of the key benefits realized through evidence-based home visiting services. How do you view the needs and benefits of home visiting to families?

A: This type of program can be essential in ensuring at-risk children receive the services and that families have access assistance with accessing support networks. I also see it as a way of empowering and supporting parents in need as well.

Q: How will you support the expansion of state investment dollars to serve those in your district who can benefit from home visiting?

A: I would support any line items allocating resources to state-regulated home visiting programs, particularly expanding personnel and caseworkers who are often overwhelmed with case load and lack of resources.

Q: What would you do to increase payments to high-quality providers to improve their ability to retain qualified professionals?

A: I believe it begins with providing higher wages for the positions so that providers can attract professionals. I would also support incentives or subsidies for these individuals to continue their education and skill development as a way of retaining them, with increased wages to commensurate.

Q: How will you champion early care and early childhood education?

A: As a mom, I understand on a personal level how important early care is, as well as a early childhood education. As a community volunteer, I've seen the struggles too many working parents face when they lack quality, reliable child care and are unable to go to work. As a School Board Director, in addition to listening to the concerns of parents in my district, I have been engaged in advocacy and educational efforts to be a better voice for public education, and advocating for public schools will be my top priority when elected. All people must have access to equal opportunities and privileges. I believe a high-quality preschool education enhances the degree of K-12 education a child will receive, and will support measures to increase resources to early childhood education. The economic disadvantage created for parents, primarily mothers, when access to early childhood care is lacking is a real and urgent issue - one that has been incredibly apparent during this year's pandemic as a result of school shutdowns and schedule modifications. We must ensure that parents can go to work knowing their child is safe and receiving high quality care that is affordable and we must ensure that children are provided the opportunity to achieve their greatest success in life from an education enhances the degree of K-12 education a child will receive, and will support measures to increase resources to early childhood education. The economic disadvantage created for parents, primarily mothers, when access to early childhood care is lacking is a real and urgent issue - one that has been incredibly apparent during this year's pandemic as a result of school shutdowns and schedule modifications. We must ensure that parents can go to work knowing their child is safe and receiving high quality care that is affordable and we must ensure that children are provided the opportunity to achieve their greatest success in life from an early age.