



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: **Marian Keegan**

Current Job: Forester, Senior Executive, Director of Department of Community Conservation

Website: <http://www.KeeganforPA139.com>

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You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **House District 139**

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

A: About 1,225 3-4 year old children are in my district. Is there sufficient high-quality early learning education is available to families to assist them in preparing their children for life in my district? If not, I would be a champion for getting the needed funding in the budget for the remaining year, and going forward. State legislatures should be champions for making Pennsylvania competitive with surrounding states in preparing our children for the future.

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

A: Yes.

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

A: Expanded access to high-quality child care is very important to working families in my rural district that has a high percentage of retail, real estate, and customer service oriented businesses, and nature-based tourism and farming.

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: My district is rural and subsidies into rural areas should be emphasized so that more working families have access to high quality early learning for their children. I will look at the per child investment level state-wide and compare it to the per child investment in my district. If more funding is needed, I will fight to increase the funding that gets to my district.

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: The need for home visiting is real and the benefits are essential. Addiction and abuse are problems in rural areas. Children who are exposed have friends beyond the home unit. Childhood friends of abused children are affected, too. Home visits that help parents cope and become economically self-sufficient makes the entire community safer.

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 ask the Department of Health and Human Services how many families in the district need home visiting, then fight for the funding in the budget.

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

A: I would, at the very least, vote to increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour. I would request a survey of salaries of early childhood educators in my district. If salaries are below kindergarten teachers, I would appropriate more money in the budget for subsidies.

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

A: I will champion not only funding but also follow the funding to the various programs throughout the district that are available through the 5 school districts, head start programs, department of health and human services, day care centers, etc.