



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: **Wendy Ullman**

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

Current Job: **State Rep**

Social Media: **@ullman_wendy**

Campaign Contact Person: **Dan Wood**

You are running for election in which

Campaign Contact Cell Phone: **267-261-1567**

House or Senate District?: **House District 143**

Campaign Contact Email Address: **danwood@wendyullman.com**

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

A: It is long overdue. There is irrefutable evidence that access to high quality Early Childhood Education yields life long benefits in terms of earnings, mental & physical wellness and social infrastructure.

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

A: Absolutely.

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

A: While many comfortable and affluent families in my district provide high-quality early ed for their kids, others are simple unable to. For many children this begins the lifelong disparity in achievement between these children. The Start Strong can be a game changer for families and their children.

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: An aspiration goal would be to provide free high quality care for all, just as we provide k-12 public education. In this economy, it may take many decades to achieve. Even in this pandemic economy, there are opportunities for increased revenue in the commonwealth, among them FINALLY enacting a severance tax on shale gas and revenue from the legalized sale of adult use marijuana. In a different political climate, there may be a greater federal investment in early childhood care as well.

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: Home visits help families. At risk families, families with young parents, single parent families, families with parents with substance use disorders or mental wellness concerns, families with parents who are immigrants, families who struggle with food insecurity or health deficits. Home visits help parents be good parents. At times, home visits save lives.

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 will continue to work in partnership with county and state HHS to advocate for needed support.

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

A: Increasing the minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour is the first step in lifting wages across the board. Especially in this pandemic economy, I will support increasing grants to providers to enable them to remain economically solvent and pay their workers at the rate they deserve.

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

A: I will continue to use my vote to support early childhood ed, use my voice to advocate for & educate about it, and use my persuasive powers to reach out to colleagues. Additionally, I will work with County and not for profit organizations in partnership to provide resources for families in need right now. I will also work with local school districts and higher ed to support young people getting training, certification, and degrees in childcare to support an educated workforce. I will also introduce legislation to provide tuition support and/or loan forgiveness for people pursuing a degree or certificate in early childhood ed.