

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: **Jill Dennin**

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

Current Job: **Substitute Teacher**

Social Media: **@jillforPA**

Campaign Contact Person: **Rachel Hendricks**

You are running for election in which

Campaign Contact Cell Phone: **237-337-3777**

House or Senate District?: **House District 147**

Campaign Contact Email Address: **rachelhendricks147@gmail.com**

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

A: I strongly believe that we must allocate additional state funds for early learning. These are the most formative years and as a substitute teacher for 12 years, I have seen the benefits of high-quality early learning.

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: This is highly important to me.

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 legislation that raises additional funds through untapped revenue sources like fracking. I would also support a campaign to educate the public about the importance of child care for infants and toddlers as this benefits individual families and the economy of PA as a whole.

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: As a Berks County Intermediate Unit board member, I have come to understand the need and importance of home visits to at risk and low income families. In the end these investment will pay of ensuring our children are healthy and safe.

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 vote for budgets that increase investment in home visiting and make sure that we have a funding source.

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

A: I would introduce legislation that offered tax incentives to for profit childcare providers to help pay for teacher certifications. I would also increase the amount of funding for government funded childcare so their providers can be paid a minimum salary as set by a state law.

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

A: I will always support budgets that prioritize early childhood education programs. In addition I would support legislation mandating certain requirements and standards that must be met in order for providers to receive funds.