

## 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: **Deb A Ciamacca**

Current Job: **Retired teacher**

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

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You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **House District 168**

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

**A:** This is a matter of equity and of getting the biggest bang for the buck with education dollars. As a former high school teacher, I taught thousands of kids...many of whom did not have the proper reading or math skills to be able to compete in the 21st century. We need to educate kids at a very young age in order to make sure that they are not starting

**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:** Extremely important. As we see right now, parents without child care cannot work. We are finally realizing that child care...good child care...is essential to our economy.

**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 think there should be a separate Child Care Caucus of legislators who want to prioritize this issue. This group could meet periodically to discuss legislation and to garner support.

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 needs and benefits are great. We should expand this program.

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 work tirelessly to lobby on its behalf.

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

A: I think we should look at the education funding formula for each school district and apportion a percentage of the money to child care subsidies in that district.

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

A: The data is clear that this must be a priority. Early childhood education gives kids a substantial boost and paves the way to educational success. I will work to establish a caucus focused on these issues...I will lobby my fellow legislators...I will write and speak about this issue back in my district....I will visit local child care and early education