

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: **Dana Hamp Gulick**
Current Job: **Business Liaison**

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You are running for election in which
House or Senate District?: **House District 97**

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

A: Quality pre-k programs set students up for lifetime success. I strongly support increasing investment in our youngest children to help them prepare for school receive supports, and achieve success.

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

A: Yes, absolutely. Again, investing in our children always pays dividends for them, our families, and our communities.

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

A: It's extremely important. Childcare costs have continued to skyrocket while incomes have remained largely stagnant. Link that to our lowest-in-the-region minimum wage and we have a disastrous situation for families. Quality, supportive childcare programs are necessary for healthy families and a healthy community 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: As a legislator, I will sponsor and co-sponsor legislation to support access to affordable childcare. I will also partner with local organizations advocating for and providing care. As a single working mom, I know very well the need for affordable childcare!

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: Not everyone had ideal parental examples growing up and so home visits can step in to help parents, especially young parents, learn good tools and habits for parenting. Building that trusted relationship too allows for other community services to help as needed. These programs of home visitation can begin even during pregnancy to improve incomes not just for children but for entire families.

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

A: It is my top priority to see families in my district and across the Commonwealth thrive. A large part of making that happen is prioritizing the health and safety of our children. I will make programs that benefit families a top priority when making funding and budget decisions.

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

A: PA can use a combination of indirect and direct initiatives to retain qualified early learning professionals including professional development programs, training and mentoring programs, better employee benefit programs, wage initiatives such as scheduled wage increases, retention grants, and career ladder based wage supplements that tie earnings to education, experience, or professional responsibilities.

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

A: Our children are the best economic investment our Commonwealth can make. But even beyond the economic benefits of investing in our children, it's our moral imperative to give EVERY child in our communities the best education, the best opportunities, and the safest homes we can. I will keep families in my focus as I legislate, so that every family can be safe, healthy, and thriving.