

## 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: **Sharif Street**  
Current Job: **State Senator**

Website: <https://www.streetforpa.com>  
Social Media: @StreetForPA

Campaign Contact Person: **Gianni Hill**  
Campaign Contact Cell Phone: **717-386-2256**  
Campaign Contact Email Address: [gianni@giannihill.com](mailto:gianni@giannihill.com)

You are running for election in which  
House or Senate District?: **Senate District 3**

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

**A:** We should be allocating additional state funds for high-quality early education. It is based in evidence that contributions through high-quality early learning during the formative years of a child's brain have profound effects on their future. Expanding access to this high-quality early learning education means happier and healthier children, higher performance throughout school, and a more productive society.

**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:** Expanding access to high-quality child care to working families in my district is extremely important. Many of the people in my district are part of families with a single parent or where both parents work. High-quality child care provides stability for the children and economic opportunities for parents. It enhances the quality of life for children and boosts society's overall productivity -- it is a moral imperative, but also it's pragmatic economic policy. It's also extremely important that as we expand access to high-quality child care, we make sure the jobs in that sector, many of which are in my district, are well-paid.

**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 have been and will be a friend of a campaign that seeks to expand child care. I'm proud to be an advocate for these critical issues now, and I would be open to introducing and supporting legislation that expands funding at levels proposed by the campaign.

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 government has a clear vested interest in making sure children and families have a stable living and learning environment. Evidence-based home visiting has the potential to provide invaluable tools that support children, families, and even the broader communities in which they live, learn, work, and play.

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'm ready and willing to sit down and discuss the campaign's interest in writing, introducing, and supporting legislation that would expand state investment dollars to those who can benefit from home visiting.

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

A: We should increase childcare subsidy pay rates, increase pay to early childhood (and all) teachers, and provide the professional resources that qualified professionals identify as necessary to encourage and support the continued growth of our children.

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

A: I will be a strong yes vote for legislation that seeks to expand and improve the access and value of early child care and early childhood education. Especially when it comes to state-level investments, I believe that our budget should reflect these values because a budget is a moral document that shows where society places its values. I will continue to be a supporter of early child care and early childhood education and a vocal advocate for increasing funding to do so.