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Children Matter Action Fund Primary 2022 Survey Results

The Children Matter Action Fund is surveying all candidates for Pennsylvania House and Senate to learn more about their views on issues affecting the lives of children. We invite you to learn more by reviewing their responses below; by contacting their campaigns; and by following them on social media. Let me know your views on the importance of ensuring young children in Pennsylvania get the early education supports they need and deserve.

Name: Paul Friel

Website: paulfriel.com

Current Job: Business Owner (just sold business)

Social Media: PaulFriel4PA

Campaign Contact Person: Laura Johnson

Campaign Contact Email Address: pfriel96@gmail.com

You are running for election in which district? HD-26

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

A: I believe it is essential that we increase funding to high quality pre-k. Targeted, equitable funding

can ensure that all students have access to crucial educational and social opportunities from a young age. We must also take our lead from the data and research and ensure that the type of pre-k that is offered is developmentally appropriate and meets the needs of the whole child.

Q: How important, or unimportant, are increased public resources to expand access and affordability to high-quality child care to working families in your district?

A: Yes they absolutely should.

Q: Should the wages for child care workers and preschool teachers be commensurate with those of other educators with similar qualifications and experience?

A: Yes they absolutely should.

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

A: Yes.

Q: In addition to making child care more accessible and affordable, what other policies would you champion to help businesses facing a workforce shortage?

A: I believe we should focus on raising the minimum wage, increasing accessibility to education and work training, ensuring that small businesses have a level playing field, and equitably investing in local communities by improving infrastructure and services.

Q: What other government resources or policies would you consider for families that are struggling with keeping costs, especially child care, under control?

A: Increasing funding for childcare and increasing wages for workers and the two primary tools we should use. We must ensure that raising a family is affordable.

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Q: Which mental health supports are needed most in your district and how will you work to increase access to families that need them?

A: We must ensure that there are enough highly trained mental health professionals to meet the needs. This means we must invest in the recruitment, education, and retention of mental health professionals.

Q: Would you support the creation of a refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)? Why/why not?

A: Yes. It would be an excellent way to ensure that children and families have the resources they need to thrive.

Q: What would you do, if elected, to expand the access to affordable broadband internet?

A: Yes