



## Children First Action Fund General 2022 Survey Results

The Children First 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:** Tina Burns

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**You are running for election in which district?** House 124

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

A: Only drawback is finding the funding to allocate. Benefits are limitless and not only for the children, but the parents of those children and overall community.

**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: This topic is of extreme importance and demands resources and improvements.

**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, as long as credentials are equivalent. Though overall across industries we need to increase the min. wages for all employees to a living wage of at least \$15/hr.

**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: Workforce shortage should not come as a surprise to anyone. The government studied the workforce implication back in the mid 80's and predicted this shortage and that we should prepare for it. Some key legislation to help with it is to provide more funding and options for education, and opportunities to allow more legal and processed immigration so we have more employees for our limited and depleted employee pools.

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

A: Minimum wage increases and public child care & pre-care programs would help alleviate these struggles. I would be open to hearing and viewing other proposals on this topic as well.

**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: Depression and drug abuse, though many other issues are prevalent and require our attention immediately. Resources for counseling for our schools need improvement. Given the shortage of mental health professionals, I propose implementing in school telehealth services and the school equivalent to EAP programs. Any possible way to provide an outlet for students to turn to anonymously and get help.

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

A: Yes. It is not acceptable that a country as rich as ours has so many living in poverty, the time is now to help our communities and country by supporting one another.

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

A: The funding is already there. All we need to do is allocate it responsibly. I would propose programs similar to our current heating assistance programs in where money is sent directly to the supplier on behalf of an applicant that meets the financial criteria for assistance. in paying for the service.