



## 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:** Arvind Venkat  
**Current Job:** Emergency Physician

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**You are running for election in which district?** House District 30

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

A: As an ER doc who regularly cares for children, a clinical researcher focused on the effective delivery of healthcare, and, if elected, the only physician in the General Assembly, I understand directly the benefit of increased state funds for high quality pre-k education. This investment will improve the lives of children, families, and all communities in Pennsylvania, paying back over the long-term the financial investment many times over.

**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: My district generally has access to high-quality child care, but affordability is a huge challenge. This stems from a combination of the loss of the child care workforce and demand. Allocating public resources for high quality child care and raising the wages of early childhood educators is critical for the children, families, and wider community in my district.

**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

**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: We must raise the minimum wage and invest in paid family leave so that more Pennsylvanians will return to the workforce. We have seen during the pandemic how challenging low wages and lack of family leave have been to moving our communities forward.

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

A: I am in favor of tax credits to help families meet the cost of child care and policies to incentivize more Pennsylvanians to enter the child care workforce.

**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: As an ER doc, I regularly see the impact of the lack of mental health supports in my community. We need investment from the state in expanding mental health access for children, both in the medical and school settings.

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

A: Yes. This is one of the most effective ways to alleviate poverty in Pennsylvania.

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

A: One of my main areas of focus in infrastructure investment. With the passage of the federal infrastructure law, my priority will be to ensure the infrastructure investment in Pennsylvania includes improving broadband access.