

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: Joshua Caltagirone
Current Job: Project Supervisor

Website:
Social Media: Josh Caltagirone for State Rep. 99th

Campaign Contact Person: Joshua Caltagirone
Campaign Contact Cell Phone: 484-332-7105
Campaign Contact Email Address: jcaltagironeforpa@gmail.com
You are running for election in which district? State Rep 99th District

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

A: I believe any investment in our children is a good investment, all potential help we can provide children to become instrumental future workers, teachers, healthcare providers or leaders within our community is significantly needed.

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: Weather it's important to ten families or thousands within my district access to affordable child care should be a staple in our community. No family should fear gaining employment and or currently working tirelessly to provide for their household and then be forced to make difficult child care decision based on financial scarcity.

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

A: Any child care worker that has devoted time and energy in receiving similar qualifications and experience should be paid an equivalent wage.

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

A: Yes, I believe programs that can provide assistance and knowledge to children and families growing up in low income households is detrimental in the long term success of the commonwealth.

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: If elected I would support or propose legislation providing tax incentives to businesses within the commonwealth that allocate funds toward and or are directly providing child care resources for employees in need.

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

A: Other government policies I would consider would be further expansion of after school programs via ESSA. (Every Student Succeeds Act) The law was designed to maximize flexibility for states and localities to determine the best approach to offering an equitable, high-quality education to all students, including opportunities to provide before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs. Title I of ESSA provides more than \$15 billion to districts and schools serving a high percentage of children from low-income families.

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: Currently I believe the most needed mental health supports in my district are emotional distress due to covid, stress, anxieties and addictions in general. Other than providing guidance to any constituents that asked for assistance I would work with business in my community to not only provide employees with resources but to also be vocal to their consumers of state offered programs for anyone seeking help.

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

A: Yes, a state earned income tax credit would incentives qualifying households to re-invest in the economy helping our businesses and working class individuals.

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

A: I would promote the recently passed bill H.B. 2071, this bill creates the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority. The authority would manage at least \$100 million in federal aid that Pennsylvania will receive to support a coordinated and strategic rollout of broadband to more areas with construction of new towers, lines and broadband equipment.