



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: Pat Stefano

Website: StefanoForSenate.com

Current Job: Senator, 32nd District

Social Media: StefanoforSenate

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You are running for election in which district? Senate District 32

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

A: Our children are our key to a stable, well-educated workforce. Investment now yields great dividends in the future.

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: Affordable, quality education-based childcare is critical for a strong workforce. Definitely a high priority throughout the entire district. In fact, just attended a local child care workforce development round table this past Friday in Somerset County.

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

A: Competitive wages are critical in attracting and maintaining our child care workforce. Education advancement is also key in attracting and retaining this workforce.

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

A: Early intervention, like early education, will save our budget in the long run.

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: Streamlining the regulations for childcare so that more companies could bring that service in-house.

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

A: As always, want to keep our tax obligation to our workforce as minimal as possible so a strong economy can help generate the revenue needed for childcare costs.

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: Working to make sure all the school districts in my district are using the Botvin Program (or similar) to help students learn good coping skills BEFORE they are needed in stressful times.

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

A: Certainly the possibility exists, once I see how legislation is drafted and it's effects measured.

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

A: Support the new Broadband Authority that identifies low or non-existent broadband and helps flow federal dollars to the most needed areas.