



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: Art Haywood

Website: www.haywoodstatesenate.com

Current Job: PA State Senator

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You are running for election in which district? PA Senatorial District #4

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

A: Allocating additional state funds to adequately fund high-quality pre-k programs is essential for the future of Pennsylvania's youth. High-quality pre-k gives young children a head start before they start school, but funding alone is not enough. I believe that a reading revolution is necessary to address the challenge of illiteracy that impacts the majority of elementary school children in Philadelphia. That is why I have sponsored summer reading and after-school literacy programs for the past five years to ensure that students are prepared to lead independent, productive lives.

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: It is extremely important that there are increased public resources to expand access and affordability to high-quality child care to working families in my district. Access to high-quality child care for working families can make a difference in whether a mother or father goes or returns to work. During a Poverty Listening Tour in 2019 I heard directly from my constituents who were struggling to make ends meet. Having affordable, high-quality child care was identified as a barrier to returning to the workforce. To help remove these barriers, I support enhancing state-funded childcare subsidies. Over the past several years, Pennsylvania has seen steady investment in childcare programs, allowing shorter waitlists in the subsidized program and increased participants in the Keystone STARS program. In 2021 and 2022, \$655 million of federal stimulus money was made available to all childcare providers in Pennsylvania in the form of stabilization grants. My office has been working with child-care providers in my district to apply for these grants. We continue to provide information to working families in the district about state funded childcare subsidies that are available.

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, the wages of child care workers and preschool teachers should be commensurate with educators with similar qualifications and experience. I support equal pay for equal work. Raising the minimum wage in Pennsylvania to \$15 per hour has remained one of my highest priorities. Pennsylvania's minimum wage has remained at \$7.25 per hour since 2008. At \$7.25 an hour, a full-time worker earns \$15,080 per year, which is poverty wages. This is unacceptable. I have cosponsored legislation (SB12 and SB672) to increase the state's minimum 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.

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: 1. Fund childcare at job sites and worker training facilities 2. Enact a \$15 minimum wage 3. Encourage integrated regional planning to make the transportation system more accommodating for workers and employers 4. Expand virtual services to job seekers and employers available through the Department of Labor and Industry

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

A: Medicare for all to cut healthcare expenses and improve health of all.

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: State grants to mental health providers to support those individuals and families experiencing gun violence trauma.

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

A: Yes, I support the creation of a refundable Pennsylvania Earned Income Tax Credit. An EITC can be used to reduce long-term poverty, stimulate job opportunities and reduce dependence on public assistance. In August 2020, I partnered with Representative Sara Innamorato and the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center to unveil an EITC proposal that could put an extra \$500 to \$700 in the pockets of working Pennsylvanians.

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

A: Broadband is the information highway of the 21st century. In 2020 during the height of the pandemic, I wrote to demand that Comcast and Verizon provide free internet to city schools. In 2022, I supported state broadband authority to improve rural and urban access to broadband internet for working families in Pennsylvania.