



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: Alexandra Wisser
Current Job: Home maker

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You are running for election in which district? HD 147

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

A: The benefits of allocating additional state funds for high-quality pre-k education will help save costs in the long run, by increasing student performance during their K-12 education. The foundation these students receive in pre-k is vitally important for families, communities and the entire Commonwealth.

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 vitally important to many families in the 147th district. For many families, the cost of high-quality affordable child care is out of reach due to not having a livable wage. This is a huge burden for women, who are trying to get back into or stay in the workforce and need to support their families.

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, all childcare workers and preschool teachers need a livable wage and it should be commensurate with those with similar qualifications and experiences.

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

A: Yes. The evidence based program has been successful in helping children and families thrive, which helps them and their communities. The benefits of the program range from health screenings to preparing children for succeeding in school. Community based services need to be a priority for the General Assembly.

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: The 147th district needs improved access to public transportation which would help both businesses and potential employees. In addition, increased private and public partnerships would

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help to grow and sustain a workforce for local businesses and help the local economy and help families thrive. Programs that help connect businesses with veterans, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and persons looking to re-enter the workforce, should encouraged at the local and state level.

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

A: The new state budget included a newly created child tax credit, which will help many families in the 147th. In addition, more funding for child care programs was included in the budget, which will help these businesses hire staff and expand capacity so that there are enough spaces for the children that need it.

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: There are two groups of constituents that need more mental health supports in the 147th district. First, is school age children. The new state budget included a \$100 million grant program that would give \$100,000 to each district. This will help address the issue by allowing districts to increase school counselors and social workers in schools. The second group that needs more mental health support are senior citizens. Due to the isolation during the pandemic, many seniors could use more support. There needs to be more funding for community-based programs for seniors.

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

A: Yes. 28 other states have this type of tax relief. A United Way of Pennsylvania study showed that for each \$1 of cost there would be a return of \$7 to state and local income.

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

A: Current laws restrict local governments ability to build their own broadband networks. It currently gives veto power to companies and restricts competition. At least 13% of the population in Pennsylvania does not have broadband access. In order for Pennsylvania to use the federal funds available from the newly enacted Infrastructure act, there would need to be a waiver of the current law. I would support a waiver, however, the laws should be updated and allow greater competition and recognize the updated technology (ex download speeds).