



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: Jennifer Sodha

Website: Www.Sodha4StateRep.com

Current Job: Sales manager

Social Media: Jennifer Sodha

Campaign Contact Person: Premkumar Babu

Campaign Contact Cell Phone: 2152376798

Campaign Contact Email Address: jso4staterrep53rd@gmail.com

You are running for election in which district? House District 53

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

A: I am for the state funding part of high quality pre-K program for children that lack access to these services. The benefits, I view this as a much needed "investment" in the future of our country that our children represent and not an "expense" that needs to be cut. I would rank investing in our children as important as investment in infrastructure projects where we have found bi-partisan support. I will work within my Republican part towards finding common ground and give and take with Democrats to achieve this goal. The drawbacks being, the question of how to fund programs like these, I would not be in favor of raising taxes on homeowners, businesses etc to fund this much needed investment in our children. I would explore options of attracting new businesses and energy companies into our state and district to bring in the additional taxes to pay for this investment.

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: Public resources are very important , i view expanding access to childcare as a investment in our future and not as an expense. I would welcome brainstorming ideas on both sides of the aisle to make an child care an attractive option for talented employees.

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

A: I think the wages of child care workers and pre-school teachers should be higher than other educators to attract the best talent in the crucial formative early years of children that they teach ! I would like to see a program where child care workers wages are pegged to their performance "pay-for-performance" with the kids rather than someone else's pay. This also gives the ability for the child care worker earn more than they otherwise would have depending on their performance. We see this in private industry all the time and private industry pays are significantly higher than public as you mentioned earlier. I would explore including private businesses in a public-private partnership to deliver these services efficiently

children first

ACTION FUND

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

A: Yes, children of young parents are some of the most vulnerable in our society and I would support measures to support and protect these children. I would work with colleagues on both sides of the political divide, facilitate dialogue and find the middle ground

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: I would consider programs that help offset child care costs for workers who choose to work for local businesses. I would work with colleagues on all sides of the political spectrum to facilitate conversations and find the middle ground.

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 would consider programs that help offset child care costs for workers who choose to work for local businesses. I would work with colleagues on all sides of the political spectrum to facilitate conversations and find the middle ground.

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: I fully recognize Childrens mental health as one of the casualties of COVID 19 pandemic. I intend to work to get impacted children and their families the support they need to recover.

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

A: I would consider exploring and supporting measures including refundable state EITC that would create the opportunity for families to pull themselves out of poverty, provide a better opportunities for their children and also provide much needed workers for our businesses.

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

A: A key component of exercising our constitutionally granted freedoms is access to information and ability to communicate freely . I view accessing the internet as a key part in exercising these freedoms. I would leverage my knowledge and background in IT and open a dialog with National providers to explore both technology and financial solutions to expand broad band access.