



## 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:** Leanne Krueger  
**Current Job:** Legislator, PA HD 161

**Website:** [www.leanne4pa.com](http://www.leanne4pa.com)  
**Social Media:** VoteLeanne, Leanne4pa

**Campaign Contact Person:** Laurie Friedman  
**Campaign Contact Cell Phone:** 2157471910  
**Campaign Contact Email Address:** [info@leanne4pa.com](mailto:info@leanne4pa.com)  
**You are running for election in which district?** HD-161

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

A: I strongly support increasing funding for high-quality pre-k. High quality pre-k is a critical investment in the future development of children.

**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 incredibly important to increase access and affordability to high-quality child care. As a single mom, this hits home for me. I strongly support President Biden's American Families Plan, which provided direct payments to families to subsidize childcare.

**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.

**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: One major need in Pennsylvania is investment in public transportation. Reliability of public transit is a barrier faced by both workers and businesses, and leads to huge productivity losses, and exacerbates climate change, which disproportionately affects poorer communities. Another is combined reporting, closing the Delaware Loophole. Our small businesses are burdened with a higher tax rate because too many businesses operating in our state do not pay their fair share. Broadening the tax base will allow us to provide relief to small, local businesses.

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

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A: I strongly support a permanent extension of President Biden's childcare tax credit, which provided immediate access to \$300 per month per child to help alleviate the cost burden on 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: We often talk about mental health separate from economic security, workplace policies that support families and safe (physical, emotional and psychological safety) communities. There's an abundance of research that shows a) folks with less income are more likely to experience mental health issues, and b) the correlation between stress and mental health (and we know stress increases when we don't know how to feed our children, are afraid to let our kids play outside and when identities are not accepted. So supporting jobs that pay a living wage and protect workers and to reduce gun violence is so very key (though we also know that gun violence is related to economic security).

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

A: Yes. I am in favor of any measure that can make both taxation and delivery of benefits more progressive in Pennsylvania.

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

A: I voted for the creation of the Broadband Development Authority and will work to make sure it is funded adequately. The current \$5million line-item in the proposed FY22-23 is not enough.