

Candidates Early Childhood Education Survey Results

The Children Matter Action Fund is surveying all candidates for Pennsylvania House and Senate seats to learn more about their views on childcare and early childhood education. We invite you to learn more by reviewing their responses below; by contacting their campaigns; and by following them on social media. Let them know your views on the importance of ensuring young children in Pennsylvania get the early education supports they need and deserve.

Name: **Drew Murray**

Current Job: **Regional Sales Manager**

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You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **House District 182**

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

A: I am a firm believer in universal pre-K. Too many children in Philadelphia enter elementary school unprepared. Philadelphia has the highest percentage (25%) of poverty of the largest big cities in the nation. We need to educate ourselves out of poverty and the starts in the pre-school years.

Q: Will you support increasing annual investments in the Pre-K Counts and Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program line items?

A: Yes.

Q: How important, or unimportant, is expanding access to high-quality child care to working families in your district?

A: Very important.

Q: If you support increased state investment in subsidized child care for infants and toddlers at the campaign's recommended levels, how will you help the campaign expand child care for working families? OR If you do not support the proposed increases in access to child care, please explain why.

A: I support an increase of funding, but resources need to be found without increasing the current tax structure. I believe that there is plenty of wasteful spending at a state level and funds can be found by cutting that waste.

Q: Improved parenting skills, increased family economic self-sufficiency, improved maternal and child health and reducing abuse and neglect are just a few of the key benefits realized through evidence-based home visiting services. How do you view the needs and benefits of home visiting to families?

A: I would like to further study the benefits of home visiting, but at its face it looks like a great benefit. I am for any program that develops economic self-sufficiency.

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

A: As stated in the answer above, I would like to further study the benefits of home visiting. I could be in favor of an increase in funding if there is not an additional tax burden put on the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Q: What would you do to increase payments to high-quality providers to improve their ability to retain qualified professionals?

A: I believe the market should determine wages and the government should not dictate wages. Minimum wages often times lead to higher unemployment and inflation and consequently have the opposite effect of their intention.

Q: How will you champion early care and early childhood education?

A: I will sponsor for legislation expanding universal pre-K.