



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: **Tay Waltenbaugh**

Current Job: **Retired Human Services Director**

Website: <http://www.tayforsenator2020.com>

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You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **Senate District 39**

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

A: Now more than ever, children have a need and right to quality education. I unequivocally support increased funding and resources from the state to ensure that our kids are getting access to the early childhood learning they need in order to be healthy, well educated and have a shot at success and well being. The only real drawbacks to allocating additional funds are politically oriented and cannot be justified.

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

A: Yes. In fact, I have worked tirelessly to fund and sustain a Head Start program in Westmoreland County.

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

A: This is a top priority and I will introduce legislation to expand accessible, reliable, quality child care to working families in my district who, now more than ever, will need assistance.

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 am in support of expanding subsidies and will rely on the experts and data to inform my decisions on how to best advocate for working families.

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: Home visits and assistance are essential as is providing resources like broadband and internet access to families struggling to meet their children's physical, intellectual and emotional needs. I am deeply concerned about the additional burden befalling already struggling families during the time of Covid. We have to do better.

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

A: In addition to seeking R CAP and grant money, I would look to change the funding formula for public education starting with changing the distribution of funds paid out to failing, for profit charter schools. Money spent on charter schools should be invested in fortifying our schools and all services needed to keep our children safe and well.

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

A: I would sponsor and vote for legislation to increase the minimum wage and support professionals and paraprofessionals in their right to organize unions.

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

A: Early childhood education is a fundamental building block for individuals, families and communities and has been a priority in my decades long professional work: It will be a priority for me as a legislator as well.