



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: Joe Ciresi

Website: ciresiforpa.com

Current Job: State Representative

Social Media: CiresiForPA

Campaign Contact Person: Heather Hyvarinen

Campaign Contact Cell Phone:

Campaign Contact Email Address: heather@ciresiforpa.com

You are running for election in which district? HD146

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

A: We know that investing in high-quality pre-k helps to improve performance during K to 12 years. Investing in high-quality pre-k can help prepare children for higher achievement. Allocating money toward high-quality pre-k can potentially help us to save money in our overall education system and prepare students for the workforce.

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's important to everyone. When you have affordable childcare it allows more income to come into the home by allowing both and/or single parents to be employed and gives families peace of mind that their children are being taken care of during work hours.

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

A: In all industries wages should always reflect the experience and education level of the individual.

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: Lower business taxes that businesses pay the state so that they can pay better salaries and benefits.

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

A: Income based help to raise the thresholds for where we give support. We haven't adjusted this in years. It's time to start adjusting the numbers to reflect cost of living increases.



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: All mental health support is needed. This is a widely underfunded area.

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

A: I believe we have a very robust EITC in Pennsylvania currently.

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

A: In regards to affordable broadband internet I've already worked with Representative Pam Snyder on bills that were passed into law.