



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: Richard Ringer

Current Job: Consultant/Retired

Website:

Social Media: Friends of Richard Ringer

Campaign Contact Person: Richard Ringer

Campaign Contact Cell Phone: 13123999738

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You are running for election in which district? House District 51

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

A: I am a firm supporter of quality pre-k education statewide. Pre-k education and funding for it is a vital investment in the future of all of us. If we want Pennsylvania to be a top-ranked place to live and work, as I do, early childhood education is great place to start.

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: Like many other professions, the quality of service and work provided is highly dependent on the quality of the people providing the service and work. I know this firsthand having started and operated businesses --a small PR firm and a bar/restaurant -- and having worked at labor union companies and small, privately-owned businesses. Decent pay and benefits gets dedicated 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: No doubt. Yes.

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

A: I returned to Pennsylvania after decades of working elsewhere to take care of my elderly parents. They have since passed. As their age and mental/physical conditions worsened, I was fortunate to get much needed hospice help for them. Their loving care for my parents enabled me to get much needed time for myself. Yes, home visiting pays off!

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: Not every high school graduate will go to college. Not all need or want to. We should provide more opportunities, and better pay, for those who want to pursue careers in community and family assistance.

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

A: Tax incentives to employers that offer child care. Also, I recently paid my taxes. Why not have a check off box on to indicate a willingness to provide funds for child/community care?

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: Unfortunately, but like many others, I know friends who have lost children to suicide and drug abuse. If elected, I want to end the partisan bickering on issues such as health care, childcare, guns, etc. If we want a truly better future, we need to start acting NOW.

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

A: yes

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

A: We live in a digital age. Broadband needs to be readily and affordable accessible.