



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: Carol E Taylor

Website:

Current Job: Adult Rehabilitation counselor

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You are running for election in which district? Senate District 30

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

A: The benefits is that it gives children a start they might not have otherwise. Since brain development starts this young, the earlier the positive learning process starts the better. Access to these kinds of early interventions is limited socio- economically. In order to give all children a better start- the government needs to provide the resources.

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 extremely significant to those in my district. It is without a doubt, unfortunate that this poses a significant barrier to finding and keeping work. As a result of Covid, many families found themselves in a position of having to find someone to stay home with the children or face unemployment. Quality child care is a necessity to working families, but it is expensive and hard to find. A number of child care centers stopped operating during Covid and did not reopen. There is a need to be able to attract new child care business and staff to populate them. This requires competitive wages and benefits. Not only is it necessary to staff the programs, but to retain these 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: Yes. In that their job is incredibly important, and the skills they need are commensurate, but somewhat different., they need to be paid on a level with those with similar qualifications and experience.

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

A: Yes. This is an important program. It is a sad statistic that on 2-5% are receiving services.

Q: In addition to making child care more accessible and affordable, what other policies would you champion to help businesses facing a workforce shortage?

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A: Assisting businesses with credits tax wise, or with providing on site services. Partnering with other organizations to assist with child care concerns. Encouraging businesses to include child care as an additional benefit , as we do dental , vision etc.

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

A: It should lower taxes significantly for lower income families. Grant and loan programs to encourage child education and care in those areas with the largest need. Providing transportation for these children, even if pre k.

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: In home supports for struggling families. It is especially important with those individuals who have turned to drugs and alcohol as a way to cope with underlying mental health. Giving individuals the support and resources they need is vitally important to the entire family. Individuals with a mental health issue are 60% more likely to struggle with addiction. We need to get a handle on this , as it affects every area of people lives- the family unit, the community, and the strain on the criminal justice system. Incarceration of those with mental health/ addiction problems only serves to exacerbate the problem.

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

A: Yes. The state does not provide this, thus the federal government is actually much more realistic as to poverty in the US. Pa needs to follow that example. It is ridiculous to have a EITC federally and get money back, and to end up paying taxes to the state on an income which does not cover basic needs.

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

A: Increase access to all regions, and equalize the speed of access for all areas to high speed.