

Advocacy Toolkit for ECE Providers

Summer 2023

With the continued wage/staffing crisis, and no new funding from the federal government until 2025, PA must step up and compensate ECE teachers for their challenging and vital work to ensure families have access to the childcare they need for our workforce to thrive.

Activity #1: Call Senate Leaders!

The PA House passed a bill with an increase in childcare funding, but it now must pass the Senate who may choose to reduce or even eliminate these funds. Call them and explain the impact of letting childcare go unfunded!

Contact info:

Senator Kim Ward
(717) 787-6063

Senator Joe Pittman
(717) 787-8724

Senator Scott Martin
(717) 787-6535

Talking points: When you reach the legislative offices, you can either share your thoughts with a staff person, leave a message, or request an appointment to discuss.

Sample script for ECE PROFESSIONALS: Hello, my name is _____ and I am calling to express my concern over the lack of funding for childcare in this year's budget. Childcare programs like mine are struggling with staffing. We need new teachers and have children on our waiting list. We need a wage scale that will allow us to pay our teachers for their hard work so we can care for all the children who need our care.

Sample script for PARENTS/ FAMILIES: My child has been on a child care waitlist for _____. This is creating a huge impact on my life. (Provide one or two details.) My child care provider tells me they can keep their classrooms open because of a staffing shortage and they can't afford to pay higher wages. As you make final decisions on the state budget, please include direct resources for child care provider to increase their staff wages!

Activity #2: Engaging Your Legislators All Summer Long

School may be out for the summer, but policymakers are not! Summer (after the budget is passed) is a perfect time to help your legislators experience all that your program, staff, and families have to offer. Invite them to your summer cookout, ice cream social, back to school night, or other events.

Find your legislator here: [Find Your Legislator - PA General Assembly \(state.pa.us\)](https://legis.state.pa.us) ; Request Advocacy staff to set up a visit to your program by emailing Jackie Groetsch (jackie.groetsch@firstup.org).



Senator Dillon at G&T Daycare
Montessori graduation

Activity #3: Budget Bugs

Send Budget Bugs to your PA House & Senate leaders to remind them that children are learning and developing NOW and need qualified professionals to care for them. Add a note from children, teachers, or families to strengthen your message.

Preparation: Beforehand, gather green paper, for leaves, cardstock or construction paper, for a background, various bottle caps, post-it's or white paper, for wings; craft glue; double-sided tape, washable markers or crayons.

Directions:

1. Glue leaf to cardstock
2. Glue a small, medium and large bottle or jar cap in a row (or lay down a strip of double-sided tape to capture bottle caps)
3. Add legs and antennae with a marker
4. Optional: Stick post-it note wings or glue pre-cut half-circles of paper on either side of bug, for wings.

