

Campaign link: <https://pennaeyc.p2a.co/LxnwplK>

Internal Campaign Name	Thank you to legislators for supporting high-quality infant and toddler child care during 2019-2020 budget season.
Subject of Email Message (for Constant Contact OR Mailchimp)	NOW is the time to speak up for child care in PA!
Email Message Content (for Constant Contact)	<p>The good budget news is that, due to a sizeable increase in federal funds appropriated via the new state budget, more hardworking parents will be able to enroll their infants and toddlers in affordable, high-quality child care. The President and Congress have made quality child care investments a priority, and stepped up to help families afford to go to work.</p> <p>State policymakers were tuned in to the message of Start Strong PA with state policymakers announcing that serving more infants and toddlers in high-quality child care is an example of “what works” and “helps put Pennsylvanians back to work”.</p> <p>However, the final budget still resulted in state investments being cut by \$36 million and replaced with one-time federal funds. In spite of a sizeable state budget surplus, thousands of children will still be cared for in settings that are not able to meet high-quality standards, and thousands of parents will be unable to reach their full workforce potential because child care is unaffordable.</p> <p>What does this mean?</p> <p>The short version is this: a reduction of state funds means we will have to fight harder in the coming years to restore and grow Pennsylvania’s investments in child care access, quality, and workforce supports.</p> <p>So what’s next? Take a stand! Email your legislators now!</p> <p>It is important that state policymakers hear from you, our supporters, and your friends, colleagues, families, and neighbors. They need to know that we are paying attention and that we will be closely monitoring the restoration and growth of state investments in the future.</p> <p>Button <Take Action Now></p> <p>Now that you’ve contacted your legislators, can you take two more minutes to post this campaign on your social media and encourage</p>

	<p>others to participate? Be sure to include a few sentences about why the issue matters to you!</p> <p>Button <share the campaign></p>
<p>Call to Action Headline (Phone2Action Banner above text)</p>	<p>Contact your legislator about state funding for high-quality child care!</p>
<p>Campaign Description (Phone2Action text)</p>	<p>The 2019-2020 budget includes additional federal dollars in child care to do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Serve 970 infants and toddlers in high-quality programs off the child care subsidy waiting list; 2. Increase add-on subsidy rates for infant and toddler care in STAR 2, 3, and 4 programs. 3. Support apprenticeships for infant and toddler teachers <p>While overall child care spending increased due to growth in federal funding, state appropriators reduced the state child care budget by \$36 million, replacing those dollars with federal funds.</p> <p>This was a missed opportunity to invest those federal funds, such as by serving more children on the waiting list.</p> <p>This reduction of state funds means we will have to fight harder in the coming years to restore and grow Pennsylvania’s investments in child care access, quality, and workforce supports.</p> <p>Please thank legislators for the consideration placed on high-quality infant and toddler child care during this budget season. Tell them that you will be closely monitoring the restoration and growth of state investments in the future. Remind them to continue their support for our youngest children to receive a quality educational foundation through high-quality child care.</p>
<p>Call to Action (Above Sign-In Area)</p>	<p>Enter your info to take action now!</p>
<p>Fields to Collect</p>	<p>Email (optional) Title (optional) First name Last name Address City Zip Phone</p>
<p>Thank you message (appears on page following action)</p>	<p>Thank you for reaching out to your legislators! Your voice makes a difference!</p>

taken)	Please share this campaign with your networks also!
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Email Message to legislators	<p>Subject: Some help for infants, toddlers, and hardworking parents</p> <p>Dear Rep/Sen X,</p> <p>I am pleased that this year's budget allocates federal funds so that more hardworking parents can enroll their infants and toddlers in affordable, high-quality child care. This is a strong and welcome statement when the President and Congress are stepping forward to help families afford to go to work and making quality child care investments a priority. These new federal child care resources are especially important in Pennsylvania since 70 percent of children under six years old have all parents working.</p> <p>However, the final budget still resulted in state investments being cut by \$36 million and replaced with one-time federal funds. Yet, it is obvious that the Commonwealth could have afforded to help an additional 2,400 infants and toddlers enroll in high-quality child care and enable their parents to work. In spite of a sizeable budget surplus and available federal funds, thousands of children are being cared for in settings that are not able to meet high-quality standards, and thousands of parents are unable to reach their full workforce potential because child care is unaffordable.</p> <p>Since the shortage of affordable high-quality child care is costing the Commonwealth's employers, taxpayers, and working parents \$2.5 billion per year (see: http://paearlylearning.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-04-ELIC-RN-report-FINAL.pdf), we look forward to working with you in the months ahead to build the support for a responsible and much needed increase in state and federal funding for child care. In doing so, we can show the nation that Pennsylvania is serious about being a leading state for our young children. We must act on the research telling us that the first three years of life are the most critical for children's healthy brain development.</p>
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