



Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

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State Workers Taken Care of - Now What About the Children?

Legislators must negotiate a budget that invests in programs for children and their families

HARRISBURG (Aug. 6, 2009) – Now that the Governor has taken final action on a “bridge” bill to ensure that state employees are paid, the budget conference committee must redouble its efforts to complete a state budget that invests in programs for children and families.

“The Governor and the General Assembly did the right thing by finding a way to ensure that state workers would not have to endure further payless paydays,” said Joan L. Benso, president and CEO of Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children. “Now it is time for the budget conferees to work together with the same focus and dedication to provide for the health, education, and well-being of our children. This means that the conference committee should place a priority on investing in key programs that support children and their families, like basic education funding, CHIP, Child Care Works, Pre-K Counts, County Child Welfare Services, and more.

“The need for child care, health care coverage and both early childhood education and basic education are critical at this time of need. Cutting these programs is not acceptable. Basic education funding has been an area of contentious debate for budget conferees. Children will be returning to school in the next few weeks. They will not get a second chance if their education quality suffers due to a lack of state resources. Adequate and equitable school funding must be a priority every year. The Commonwealth’s commitment to children should not diminish when times get tough.” Benso added.

More information is available by contacting Leslie Suhr of Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) at 717-236-5680 or lsuhr@papartnerships.org. Visit us at www.papartnerships.org.

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