



Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

Joan L. Benso
President & CEO

116 Pine Street, Suite 430
Harrisburg, PA 17101
www.papartnerships.org

David W. Sweet, Esq.
Board Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kathy Geller Myers
717-236-5680; 717-903-3716 (mobile)
kgmyers@papartnerships.org

Lack of State Budget Imperils Child Care Throughout PA *Budget Stalemate Threatens Staff Layoffs and Center Closures*

HARRISBURG (Aug. 17, 2009) – Child care advocates from around Pennsylvania today implored the Legislature to pass a responsible budget that prioritizes the needs of children, including funding for child care. Child care providers that serve low-income children with state resources are facing serious cash flow challenges. But, simply passing a budget that gets money flowing isn't the answer. Passage of a budget that fully funds the governor's budget proposal for child care and other early learning programs is the solution.

"High-quality, affordable child care is essential to keep parents working and provide them with the peace of mind that their children are safe and well cared for," said Joan L. Benso, president and CEO of Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children. "A budget that cuts investments for child care simply is not acceptable. We need the Legislature to pass a budget that keeps its commitment to the early care and education of Pennsylvania's children."

Child care providers came to Harrisburg to send a message that without the passage of a budget that includes adequate funding for child care, they are facing tough decisions including laying off staff, reducing service, or even closing their doors. This could leave child care workers out of jobs and parents without the child care they need to go to work.

"There are currently 16,000 children on the Child Care Works subsidy waiting list – and that list is likely to grow. If the cuts proposed in S.B. 850 were enacted, another 8,000 children would lose child care subsidy. This is penny wise and pound foolish. Investments in child care keep parents working and children learning. A budget with anything less is not good for Pennsylvania's children, service provider community, working parents and economy. It is time for the budget stalemate to come to an end," Benso said.

For more information contact Kathy Geller Myers of Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) at 717-236-5680 or kgmyers@papartnerships.org. Visit us at www.papartnerships.org

###