



June 17, 2026

The Honorable Senator Rosemary Brown
40th Senatorial District
487 Cortez Road
Jefferson Township, PA 18436

Dear Senator Brown,

We are writing on behalf of the 1,500 members of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce and 80 fellow Chambers state-wide [[sign-on letter to state lawmakers](#)] in support of state investments for high-quality, publicly funded child care, Pre-k, and Early Intervention.

The investments that were made in these programs in the 2025-26 budget are helping prioritize the healthy development and early learning of our children, support the needs of working families, and bolster our commonwealth's economic growth. High-quality early care and education is essential for our economy as it allows parents to participate in the workforce.

Specifically, as the final FY 2026-27 budget is negotiated, we are asking you to advocate for the inclusion of the following investments:

- \$10 million increase in the Child Care Recruitment and Retention line item. Increased funding is urgently needed to address the child care staffing crisis and its impact on working families, businesses, and the economy.
- \$7.5 million in Pre-K Counts to help stabilize early learning providers by boosting per child rates and to help combat inflationary pressures and staffing shortages caused by low wages.
- \$2 million for the Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program to help stabilize the Head Start workforce.
- \$14 million for the Infant/Toddler Early Intervention program, which will increase rates for providers, working to ensure they stay in the program and serve infants and toddlers in need.

Investments in Pennsylvania's youngest citizens should be made a top priority in the FY 2026-27 state budget as they make steps to an equitable, sustainable, and comprehensive early childhood care and education system. Please support the above priorities during the budget negotiations to ensure that they are included as part of the final package.

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We want to thank you for your long-standing commitment to the business community – and your constituents and their families.

Sincerely,



Marianne Gilmartin, Esq.
Chair, The Chamber



Robert F. Durkin
President, The Chamber

CC: Senator Marty Flynn
Representative Kyle Mullins
Representative Bridget Kosierowski
Representative Kyle Donahue
Representative Jim Haddock
Drew Popish, Office of Governor Josh Shapiro