May 29, 2013

President Barack H. Obama

Members of the 113th Congress

As businesspeople, we know that a skilled workforce is the key to economic growth and U.S. competitiveness. All of our nation’s priorities – energy, environment, defense, health, education – depend on a well-prepared workforce.

Many of us compete in a global marketplace. We see other countries investing in their young children both for the long-term benefits of a stronger workforce and the current benefits that come from enhancing the productivity of parents. To compete, we have to do the same.

Overwhelming amounts of research and evidence show the return on investment from giving young children a good start in life. We have examined the research and drawn our own conclusions: quality early childhood programs have a significant and positive impact on the skilled workforce, customer base, economy and nation we need. Behavioral skills highly valued by employers, such as self-discipline, persistence and cooperation, start in the youngest years and last a lifetime.

We rarely have the luxury of making business investment decisions with as much evidence as we have to support the economic value of investing in early care and education.

Hundreds of national, state and local business leaders and organizations have recognized the positive economic returns generated by high quality early childhood education. In the last few years, both Republican and Democratic governors have announced their support for more expansive early childhood initiatives. Early care and education is not a partisan issue. It is an American competitiveness issue that impacts all of us.

We believe public policy in the early childhood area should:

- Prioritize programs with proven benefits for children and society, such as quality early education for children ages birth to five, home visiting and health care
- Address children in the entire prenatal to age five spectrum, and their parents
- Focus first on children from low- to moderate-income families and other children at risk for school failure
- Give parents high quality options, using a variety of partners and settings, including the private sector
- Encourage federal and state programs to meet higher quality standards, while also allowing state flexibility to deliver services in a variety of ways
- Closely track progress on children’s health, development and other outcomes with rigorous evaluations that encourage continuous improvement

We ask our federal representatives and our business colleagues around the country to give all children the chance to fulfill their potential and create the best workforce and economy in the world.
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Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania
Wilkes-Barre, PA

C.H. Briggs Company
Reading, PA

C/O AthenianRazak
Philadelphia, PA

Carlisle Construction Materials
Mechanicsburg, PA

Central PA Chamber of Commerce
Milton, PA

Economy League of Greater Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Friedman Real Estate Group
State College, PA

Gertrude Hawk Chocolates
Dunmore, PA

Glatfelter Insurance Group
York, PA

Hammer Creek Enterprises, LLC
York, PA

Illuminations Consulting
Harrisburg, PA

Johnson Matthey, Smithfield
Smithfield, PA

Laurel Petroleum
Greensburg, PA

Main Line Health
Bryn Mawr, PA

Pennsylvania Business Council
Harrisburg, PA

PNC Financial Services Group
Pittsburgh, PA

Roaring Spring Blank Book Co.
Roaring Spring, PA

University Park Plaza Corporation
State College, PA

WavelineDirect LLC
Mechanicsburg, PA

Cypress Living
N Charleston, SC

Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
Nashville, TN

Austin Chamber of Commerce
Austin, TX

Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
San Antonio, TX

King Arthur Flour
White River Junction, VT

People Making Good Public Relations
Burlington, VT

Dominion Resources
Richmond, VA

Hanover Investment Group, LLC
Alexandria, VA

Hilldrup Companies
Stafford, VA

Play It Again Sports - Fredericksburg
Spotsylvania, VA

The Free Lance-Star
Fredericksburg, VA

The McCormick Group
Arlington, VA

Virginia Partners Bank
Fredericksburg, VA

Mary Doherty and Associates
Port Angeles, WA

Partnership for Wisconsin's Economic Success
Appleton, WI

ThedaCare
Appleton, WI
Individually (organizations listed for identification purposes only)

**Crystal Brown**
Director of Business Development, Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce
Decatur, AL

**Philip Dotts**
Managing Director, Public Financial Management, Inc.
Huntsville, AL

**Taylor Simmons**
Director of Workforce Development, Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce
Decatur, AL

**Andrew Halcro**
President, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce
Anchorage, AK

**David Abeyta**
Medical Products Divisional Leader, W.L. Gore & Associates
Flagstaff, AZ

**Nick Taratsas**
Senior Vice President, Scottsdale, AZ

**Hugh McDonald**
President and CEO, Entergy Arkansas, Inc.
Little Rock, AR

**Stacy Sells**
Senior Vice President, Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods
Little Rock, AR

**Randy Zook**
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Little Rock, AR

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Montara, CA

**Matt Regan**
Vice President, Bay Area Council
San Francisco, CA

**Harold Williams**
President Emeritus, J Paul Getty Trust
Los Angeles, CA

**Kurt Yeager**
President/CEO, Keyworks Inc.
Aptos, CA

**Gregory Anton**
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**Brad Busse**
Former President, Daniels & Associates
Denver, CO

**Barbara Grogan**
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Denver, CO

**David Merage**
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Englewood, CO

**Burnie Zercher**
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Pueblo, CO

**Peter Hurst**
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Bridgeport, CT

**Anne Mulcahy**
Retired Chairman and CEO, Xerox Corporation
Norwalk, CT

**John Rathgeber**
President & CEO, CT Business & Industry Association
Hartford, CT

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**Gordon Woodward**
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**Sheldon Anderson**
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Miami, FL

**Patricia Arboleda**
Investment Advisor, Northern Trust
Miami, FL

**Robert Buesing**
Attorney
Tampa, FL

**Diana Greenwell**
Owner, Diana Greenwell Inc, Course Design
Miami, FL
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Santiago Leon</td>
<td>Employer Resources, ACC Insurance Brokers</td>
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<td>L. George Leonard</td>
<td>CPA</td>
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<td>Harris Segel</td>
<td>Director of Research, Strategy Marketing Research</td>
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<td>Kirk Rich</td>
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<td>Samuel Wing</td>
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<td>Gary Kai</td>
<td>Executive Director, Hawaii Business Roundtable</td>
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<td>Dean Okimoto</td>
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<td>Ronald Grzywinski</td>
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<td>Lisa Donnelly</td>
<td>Sr. Human Resource Manager</td>
<td>Villa Hills, KY</td>
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<td>Hugh Froedge</td>
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Renae Conley  
EVP, Human Resources & Administration, Entergy Corporation  
New Orleans, LA

Karen Heck  
Co-owner, Tree Spirits  
Oakland, ME

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Bethesda, MD

Dr. Jorge Ribas  
President & CEO, Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Germantown, MD

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Executive Director, Massachusetts Business Roundtable  
Boston, MA

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Sr. VP, RBJ&P  
Boston, MA

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Partner, Richards Barry Joyce & Partners  
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Financial Representative, Northwestern Mutual  
Springfield, MA

Linda Noonan  
Executive Director, Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education  
Boston, MA

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President, The O'Brien Group  
Weston, MA

Jed Swan  
Managing Director, Drydock Ventures  
Wellesley, MA

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Nancy Urbschat  
Owner, TSM Design  
Springfield, MA

Phillip Fisher  
Founder, Mission Throttle  
Southfield, MI

Alyssa R. Martina  
Founder and President, Metro Parent Magazine  
Ferndale, MI

Leslie Murphy  
President & CEO, Murphy Consulting, Inc  
Ann Arbor, MI

Arthur Rolnick  
Senior Fellow, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota  
Plymouth, MN

Fred Senn  
Founding Partner, Fallon Worldwide  
Minneapolis, MN

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Woodbury, MN

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Ridgeland, MS

Jone Bosworth  
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St. Louis, MO

Chip Casteel  
SVP - Public Policy, St. Louis Regional Chamber  
St. Louis, MO
John Altmeyer  
President and CEO,  
Carlisle Construction Materials  
Mechanicsburg, PA

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President, WellSpan Health  
York, PA

Jack Brennan  
Chairman Emeritus,  
Vanguard Valley Forge  
PA

Peter Brubaker  
President, Hammer Creek Enterprises, LLC  
York, PA

Carl Buccholz  
Philadelphia, PA

Jackie Buhn  
Principal & CEO, C/O AthenianRazak  
Philadelphia, PA

Cory Byzewski  
VP, Home Services, Direct Energy  
Sewickley, PA

Tony Campisi  
President/CEO, Glatfelter Insurance Group  
York, PA

Denise Cesare  
President & CEO, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania  
Wilkes-Barre, PA

Maria Culp  
President & CEO, Central PA Chamber of Commerce  
Milton, PA

D. Richard Francke  
Vice President, University Park Plaza Corporation  
State College, PA

Charlene Friedman  
CFO, Friedman Real Estate Group  
State College, PA

Jay Glunt  
Shareholder, Ogletree Deakins  
Pittsburgh, PA

Dave Hawk  
Chair of Board, Gertrude Hawk Chocolates  
Dunmore, PA

Lisa Heintzelman  
President, Illuminations Consulting  
Harrisburg, PA

Daniel Hoover  
President/CEO, Roaring Spring Blank Book Co.  
Roaring Spring, PA

Corbin Kears  
Plant Manager, Johnson Matthey, Smithfield  
Smithfield, PA

Julia Klein  
Chairwoman and CEO, C.H. Briggs Comapny  
Reading, PA

Jack Lynch  
President and CEO, Main Line Health  
Bryn Mawr, PA

David Patti  
President & CEO, Pennsylvania Business Council  
Harrisburg, PA

Joseph Peluso  
General Partner, Laurel Petroleum  
Greensburg, PA

Philip Peterson  
Partner, Aon Hewitt  
Glen Mills, PA

P. Timothy Phelps  
Executive Director, TMACC  
Malvern, PA

Michael Plazony  
Senior Vice President, Life Division, Erie Insurance  
Erie, PA

James Rohr  
Executive Chairman, PNC Financial Services Group  
Pittsburgh, PA

Dave Stangis  
Vice President, Public Affairs, Corporate Responsibility, Campbell Soup Company  
Media, PA

J Donald Steele Jr.  
Chairman, President & CEO, The Northumberland National Bank  
Northumberland, PA

Vincentina Taylor  
President, WavelineDirectLLC  
Mechanicsburg, PA

Andrew Wheeler  
Philadelphia, PA

Andrew Williford  
VPHR, Volvo Construction Equipment Operations Americas  
Shippensburg, PA
Steven Wray
Executive Director,
Economy League of Greater Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Julia Goodloe Byrd
Owner, Cypress Living
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