

**TALKING POINTS FOR SENATE CALLS- FOR YOUR USE ONLY, DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO LEGISLATORS**

- I am calling on behalf of groundWork and (your organization here).
- The Senate invested \$270 million in Ohio's early childhood system in the last budget to begin to build the quality system that Ohio's children need.
- That investment moved us closer to a comprehensive system that addresses the unique educational, developmental, and health needs of our youngest children.
- Instead of maintaining that commitment, the Governor and the House cut the early childhood system by \$244 million, serving approximately 130,000 less children in our early childhood system than in FY 2009.
- Cutting out that investment now will reverse the gains we have made in this crucial part of our education system and support system for working families.
- **We cannot afford move backward in this budget!!!!**
- **Talk about what these cuts will mean for your center/community!**
- **Please restore the \$244 million cut to our early childhood system to bring us back to the Fiscal Year 2009 level of funding for early childhood education, health, and mental health. This includes:**
  - \$119 million for Public Preschool and the Early Learning Initiative, impacting 8,800 children per year
  - \$57.6 million for Help Me Grow, impacting 31,000 in the at-risk portion of HMG and 70,000 children in the one-time newborn home visit portion of HMG.
  - \$300,000 for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, impacting 2,600 children
  - \$67 million for child care, impacting an estimated 15,000 children

Tips for making phone calls

- Clearly state your name and where you live.
- Be prepared to make your point in several sentences.
- Ask for a response that includes the elected official's position.
- Realize that the staff member answering phones may have been instructed not to make detailed comments about the issues; this is done in letters so that elected official's position is not misrepresented.
- Follow up with a letter if possible. Mail, fax or e-mail it to the legislator's office.