

# Ohio's Early Care & Education System



## Ohio's Youngest Children are Paying More than their "Fair Share"

*In tough economic times, we need to fund what is proven to work. Ohio's early care and education system yields positive, research-based, long-term results for our youngest children, for our K-16 system, and for our economy. Investments in Ohio's comprehensive, high-quality early childhood system must be maintained to prepare our children for success, support our working families, and provide a solid foundation for Ohio's future workforce.*

### **HB 1 CUTS TO OHIO'S EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE**

#### **Early Education:**

**\$119 Million Cut**

**Estimated 8,800 Children Impacted\***

Early Childhood Education (also known as Public Preschool) educates more than 6,400 children per year. This program provides education and comprehensive services for children ages three through five at 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level and below. The Early Learning Initiative currently serves more than 12,000 children per year. This program provides low-income working families with full day, full year comprehensive early care and education programs.

#### **Child Care:**

**\$67 Million Cut**

**Estimated 15,000 Children Impacted\***

Ohio's child care system currently serves approximately 60,000 children ages birth through five. Changes proposed to the definition of what constitutes full-time care from 25 hours to 32.5 hours per week per child would decrease reimbursement for many providers serving subsidized children and would impact providers' ability to accept subsidized child care slots, impacting an estimated 15,000 children in the child care system.

#### **Behavioral Health:**

**\$300,000 Cut**

**Estimated 2,600 Children Impacted\***

The Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation program serves more than 31,000 children, child care providers, and parents per year. This program provides screening for early childhood behavioral health problems and coaching for parents and child care providers.

#### **Help Me Grow:**

**\$57.6 Million Cut**

**Estimated 31,000 Children Impacted in At-Risk Program\***

**Estimated 70,000 Children Impacted in One-time Newborn Visitation Program\***

The Help Me Grow program serves more than 96,000 children per year. This program provides services to expectant parents, newborns, and infants and toddlers with or at-risk for developmental delays or disabilities with the goal of enhancing the child's health and development.

**TOTAL CUT TO OHIO'S YOUNGEST CHILDREN IN FY 10-11:**

**\$244,000,000**

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMPACTED BY CUTS:**

**130,800**

\* These are **estimates** based on data from ODE, ODJFS, ODH, ODMH. Number of children impacted by child care cuts based on a non-random February 2009 survey of 700 child care providers conducted by the Ohio Association of Child Care Providers.

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## 2010-2011 Budget Items Our Children Count On!

### The Center for Early Childhood Development:

- Creates one unified early childhood administrative center for Child Care, Early Learning Initiative, Early Childhood Education, and Help Me Grow programs.
- Eliminates duplication of professional development, licensing, and other administrative services.
- Creates alignment of standards and quality improvement across the early childhood system.

### Behavioral Health:

- Early childhood mental health treatment funded at \$1 million each fiscal year in ODMH GRF line item 335-404.
- This will serve at least 700 children ages birth through six.

### Kindergarten:

- All-day kindergarten classrooms to all Ohio school districts benefits children by allowing children additional time to learn reading and math, social skills, independent learning, and language proficiency.

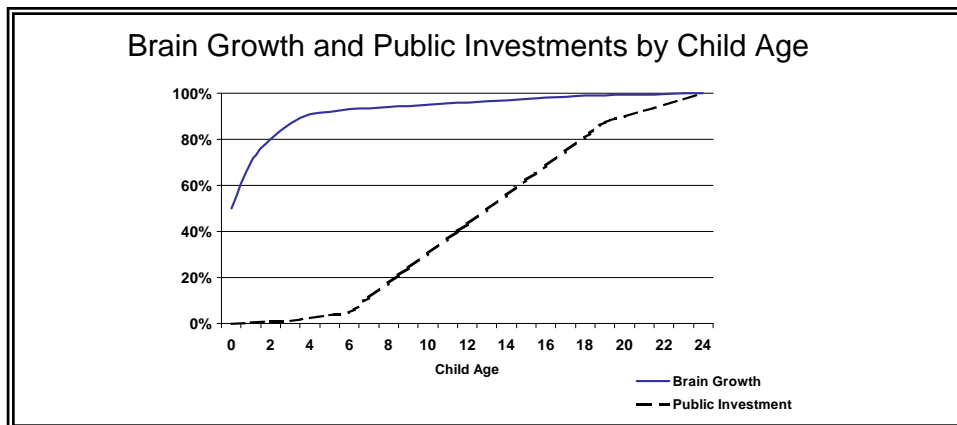
### Help Me Grow:

- Development of a statewide program allows Ohio to draw down Federal Medicaid funds, while providing support and enhancement to existing research-based home visitation programs.

### Brain Development:

Advances in brain research show that learning begins at birth, with 85 percent of a child's brain forming during the first five years of life. Research also shows that the quality of a child's experiences and relationships during these first five years greatly impacts all future learning and development. As the chart below illustrates, however, public investment is the lowest during these first five years.

#### OHIO



Although there have been many positive commitments to early childhood in the current biennium, it is essential that Ohio continues to prioritize our youngest children in the 2010-2011 biennial budget. Full restoration of \$244,000,000 to the early childhood system is essential to support Ohio's youngest children, working families, and our future workforce.

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