

Help Protect Programs and Services for Kids!

Preschool and early childhood programs in Illinois are being cut out of the state's budget. High-quality early education programs are proven to:

- ✓ Help children enter kindergarten with the skills needed to succeed in school
- ✓ Increase high-school graduation rates
- ✓ Reduce teen pregnancy rates, crime, and other social problems
- ✓ Reduce long-term costs for special education, child welfare, public assistance, and other costs

Contact your lawmakers TODAY and ask them to pass a budget that includes adequate funding to support early childhood programs! Tell them that:

- A partial budget that disproportionately cuts early childhood education and other human service grant programs is unacceptable.
- Cutting prevention programs such as home visiting and early childhood education does not save the state money in the long run. Investments in the healthy development of our state's most vulnerable children reduce future costs associated with the child welfare and criminal justice systems.
- You must return to work and pass a balanced budget that supports investments in early childhood.
- Vote in favor of an income tax increase or other increased revenue option to secure the necessary funding to adequately support early childhood programs.

To find phone numbers or other contact information for your legislators, visit the Ounce of Prevention Fund's Action Center at advocacy.ounceofprevention.org.