Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern Pennsylvania Boys & Girls Clubs of Philadelphia **Children's Literacy** Initiative **Delaware Valley** Association for the **Education of Young** Children **Education Law Center** Education Voters of Pennsylvania Free Library of **Philadelphia** Hands Across Philadelphia **Health Federation of** Philadelphia iHeartRadio **Juvenile Law Center** Mabel Morris Family Home Visit Program **Maternity Care** Coalition Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania NAACP National Nursing Centers Consortium **Pennsylvania Health Access Network** Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA Philadelphia Nurse-Family Partnership Public Citizens for Children and Youth **Support Center for Child Advocates Urban Affairs Coalition** West Philadelphia Alliance for Children Women's Way

March 18, 2015

Dear Mayoral Candidate:

While many candidates for office make pronouncements as to the state of Philadelphia's children and youth, that state remains far below where it should be. We know that every candidate for Mayor of Philadelphia wants the best for the City's youngest residents, which is why we, along with the groups listed, ask you to take the attached Pledge for Philadelphia's Children, and commit to a specific set of goals to better the lives of the City's children.

The pledge commits our next mayor to championing school funding, achieving universal high-quality Pre-K access, establishing a higher minimum wage, expanding participation in childhood hunger prevention programs, upgrading City healthcare and recreation centers and creating an Office of Children's Services Integration. We will be publishing a list of which mayoral candidates have signed the pledge and which have not.

PCCY is joined in the pledge by 23 groups serving tens of thousands of children and families in the City. More organizations endorse the pledge with each passing day and are sharing it with their supporters.

With the Pledge for Philadelphia's Children, candidates make a public vow to support our children not with vague platitudes but with distinct policy solutions. To learn more about these issues, and the solutions we propose, we invite you to meet with us for a briefing on the matters facing Philadelphia's youth in Early Childhood, Education, Healthcare and Poverty.

With the support of the Mayor, the City can provide its children with the support necessary for their success. We hope you will sign the Pledge for Philadelphia's Children and commit to achieving these goals in your administration. We look forward to working with you to make them a reality.

Sincerely,

Donna Cooper Executive Director Public Citizens for Children and Youth