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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

December 21, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

We, members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Democratic Caucus, are writing today to thank you for your commitment to growing access to high-quality pre-k and to express our support for increased funding for Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts and Head Start Supplemental Assistance within the Department of Education budget.

As you know, investments in high-quality pre-k have among the highest return on investment of any social program, leading to savings in K-12 resulting from reductions in the need for special education and grade repetition as well as savings in criminal justice involvement and incarceration. Since you took office, more than 6,000 eligible children have gained access to high-quality programs. Despite these historic gains, more than 120,000 eligible three-and-four-year-olds lack access to publicly funded high-quality pre-k this year in the commonwealth.

Looking ahead to your 2017-18 state budget proposal, we again urge you to answer the call and position Pennsylvania to provide access to Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts and Head Start State Supplemental Assistance for all eligible children and begin to address middle-class pre-k affordability concerns by 2022.

As you develop your budget proposal for the 2017-18 fiscal year, we respectfully ask that you prioritize expanding state-funded pre-k opportunities to an additional 10,000 eligible children by including \$85 million in new pre-k funding in your proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of this budget request.

Sincerely,

Frank Dermody
33rd Legislative District
Democratic Leader

and the following House Democratic legislators

Bryan Barbin
Ryan Bizzarro
Matt Bradford
Tim Briggs
Vanessa Lowery Brown
Donna Bullock
Tom Caltagirone
Mike Carroll
Carolyn Comitta
Scott Conklin
Dom Costa
Paul Costa
Angel Cruz
Mary Jo Daley
Tina Davis
Madeleine Dean
Daniel Deasy
Pam DeLissio
Tony DeLuca
Maria Donatucci
Mike Driscoll
Flo Fabrizio
Isabella Fitzgerald
Marty Flynn
Dan Frankel
Bob Freeman
Ed Gainey
John Galloway
Marc Gergely
Neal Goodman
Mike Hanna
Pat Harkins
Jordan Harris
Carol Hill-Evans
Sid Kavulich

Patty Kim
Stephen Kinsey
Bill Keller
Leanne Krueger-Braneky
Mark Longietti
Maureen Madden
Joe Markosek
Rob Matzie
Steve McCarter
Joanna McClinton
Dan McNeill
Dan Miller
Gerald Mullery
Ed Neilson
Brandon Neuman
Mike O'Brien
Eddie Day Pashinski
Chris Rabb
Adam Ravenstahl
Harry Readshaw
James Roebuck
Mark Rozzi
Steve Samuelson
Mike Schlossberg
Pete Schweyer
Brian Sims
Pam Snyder
Jared Solomon
Mike Sturla
Curtis Thomas
Greg Vitali
Perry Warren
Jake Wheatley
Rosita Youngblood