

## Take Action Today!

### Support the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program

Throughout the legislative session, legislation has been proposed that would jeopardize or remove the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. After reviewing proposals, United Ways of Iowa is in support of maintaining the current Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SVPP). This program provides access to quality early learning for Iowa's children and is a strong investment in the future of Iowa.

#### TAKE ACTION NOW! Contact your state Senator and ask him/her to support the current Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SVPP).

- Attend a forum for your State Senator.
- Schedule a meeting with your State Senator - on a Friday or on the weekend.
- Call 515.281.3371 or email ([Senate email addresses](#))
- Visit your Senator at the Iowa Capitol.

#### Talking Points

Quality early childhood programs are an economic development tool.

- 75% of Iowa's children live in families with both or the only parent(s) in the workforce. Working Iowans need quality care and education for their children.
- Cash strapped families, including middle income families, need support to pay for quality preschool. \$50 - 100 per week for preschool would compete with a family's expenses for food and utilities.

The preschool program proposed by the Governor and passed by the Iowa House does not ensure access to quality preschool programs. SVPP does ensure access to quality teachers and quality programs.

- The current proposal erodes quality by removing funding for infrastructure that supports quality teachers and quality programs.
- The current proposal eliminates opportunities for children to access preschool in communities that may not have a quality preschool program or in programs that may not accept a scholarship.
- Scholarships do not guarantee that high quality new programs will be opened where they are needed.

[Click here for more suggested talking points.](#) Click below for more background information on:

- [Return on Investment information.](#)
- [SVPP Fact Sheets by Iowa Department of Education.](#) Includes program data and basic information.
- [Fiscal Note from Legislative Services Agency on Voucher Program.](#) Vouchers would cause a net increase in required expenditures totaling \$900,000 and 2.0 FTE positions.