

Highlighted Support for Early Childhood Investments

“Quality early childhood programs for disadvantaged children are not entitlements or bottomless wells of social spending. They are not government boondoggles. The early childhood investments we make today in disadvantaged young children promote social mobility, create opportunity, and foster a vibrant, healthy and inclusive society and economy.”

JAMES J. HECKMAN, NOBEL LAUREATE IN ECONOMICS, HENRY SCHULTZ DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

“Early childhood education is critical to a child’s success in school and throughout life. Alabama’s Voluntary Pre-K Program has been voted best in quality in the nation. We have prioritized funding for pre-K in Alabama and continue to expand access for all Alabama children whose parents want them to attend. Pre-K funding is an important investment that will benefit generations of children in the future.”

GOV. ROBERT BENTLEY (R), ALABAMA

“This paper is an important catalyst for philanthropy in the early childhood field, offering a road map of areas for effective investments.”

DIANA MENDLEY RAUNER, PH.D., PRESIDENT, OUNCE OF PREVENTION FUND (DEVELOPS INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS TO INCREASE HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES) AND FIRST LADY OF ILLINOIS

“This well-researched guide shines a spotlight on the incredible importance of early childhood development and kindergarten readiness, the bright spots of effective efforts across the country, and a road map to high-impact opportunities that are ready for investment today. We need to pull together—across philanthropy, private and public sectors—to build on the momentum that exists to ensure that all of our country’s children have the basic building blocks for a strong start in life.”

CAROL LARSON, PRESIDENT AND CEO, THE DAVID AND LUCILE PACKARD FOUNDATION

“If indeed we are a nation at risk with our growing achievement and opportunity gap, this paper serves to raise awareness and inspire the commitment of public and private dollars where they can make the greatest difference—in our children’s early years. Now we can only hope our leaders will read and respond.”

MARGUERITE KONDRACKE, FORMER PRESIDENT AND CEO, AMERICA’S PROMISE ALLIANCE, CO-FOUNDER, BRIGHT HORIZONS FAMILY SOLUTIONS

“In recent years, extraordinary talent and resources have been allocated to improving America’s K-12 educational system, but this study suggests that those efforts need to start much earlier to be successful. Giving all children equal opportunity, irrespective of the economic circumstances of their birth, is a profound moral obligation and the fundamental promise of America. This analysis provides useful guidance to government and philanthropy of the most effective interventions to help fulfill that promise.”

GEORGE KAISER, PRESIDENT AND CEO, GBK CORPORATION, DONOR TO GEORGE KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION

Please see [page 47](#) for additional commentary.