

VOTE for OHIO KIDS

May 14, 2018

The Honorable Mike DeWine
174 E. Long Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Attorney General DeWine:

On behalf of the Vote for Ohio Kids campaign and its founding partners, Groundwork Ohio and the Ohio Children's Hospital Association, congratulations on being selected as the Republican candidate for Governor of Ohio.

As you plan your next several months of engagement with Ohio voters, please include the Vote for Ohio Kids Leadership Forum on September 27, 2018 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. This unprecedented event held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center will bring together a coalition of over 500 business, healthcare, and education leaders, as well as child advocates from across the state, to dialogue with you and Mr. Richard Cordray on your plans for supporting early education and healthcare for Ohio kids.

As you know, Vote for Ohio Kids is a statewide effort dedicated to ensuring Ohio's next Governor will make early education and child health a top priority. Our robust coalition is driving a powerful agenda that puts Ohio kids front and center. We believe that Ohio's next governor must invest in proven, high-quality early childhood experiences for all Ohio kids to ensure school and career success and support access to the essential healthcare services for all kids that are vital to successful development.

With only 40% of Ohio's kids entering kindergarten ready to learn, it's no surprise that only 43% of Ohio's workforce has a degree or a credential for available jobs today. Compounding this problem no doubt is the fact that in 2018, Ohio ranks 46th in the nation for kids experiencing childhood trauma, which directly impacts their ability to learn. To change this reality, Ohio must focus on the interventions that we know prepare kids for academic and career success – voluntary, evidence-based home visiting, high quality child care and preschool, and the mental and behavioral health services that support social and emotional learning.

Further, the evidence is clear that access to healthcare coverage from birth through childhood directly impacts educational outcomes and leads to improvements in overall health during adulthood—including lower rates of high blood pressure, diabetes after age 18, heart disease or heart attack, and obesity. Today just 42% of kids have access to a regular medical home, and Ohio ranks 48th in compliance with childhood immunizations. Sadly, Ohio's health outcomes for kids are discouraging, not to mention, costly for our communities and taxpayers.

We hope you will accept our invitation to share your plans and priorities for improving accessibility and quality of early education and healthcare for our youngest Ohioans. Additionally, enclosed is a candidate questionnaire that provides the opportunity for you to outline your platform and priorities on a variety of early childhood issues. We hope these questions will serve as a starting point for your discussion with our business leaders at the Leadership Forum on September 27 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Please contact Shannon Jones by phone (937-671-8575) or email (sjones@groundworkohio.org) with questions or to RSVP for the event.

Sincerely,



Shannon Jones
Executive Director, Groundwork Ohio
Co-Founder, Vote for Ohio Kids



Nick Lashutka
President & CEO, Ohio Children's Hospital Association
Co-Founder, Vote for Ohio Kids

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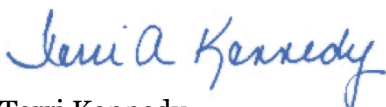
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Chief Administrative Officer, CareSource



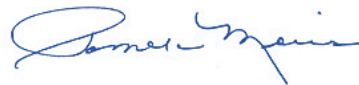
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Richard Munk, MD
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