

February 21, 2019

Hon. Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
Via email

Dear Governor DeSantis:

As mayors, we take seriously the responsible stewardship of our constituents' tax dollars. We know that prioritizing early childhood development is a wise investment in Florida's future prosperity, one with an impact on 3rd and 10th grade reading scores, high school graduation rates, future employment prospects, and the military. We ask that you make this a priority in your administration.

We know that the basic structure of the human brain is mostly constructed in the first three years of a child's life. If all children are cared for and sheltered from damaging stressors in this pivotal time, they have a stronger start at leading a self-sufficient life of service to society.

Whether this takes the form of support for early learning initiatives, more widespread health care for children under five, or greater access to parenting support resources for all parents, the result is the same: a state that prioritizes children will reap rewards over time with a better workforce and lower crime.

We have made significant progress in Florida in the last 20 years through investment in quality early education, health care, and parent resource systems, in partnership with The Florida Association of Early Learning Coalitions, The Florida Children's Council, The Florida Association for the Education of Young Children, The Children's Forum, The Florida Association of Childcare Management, The Florida Chamber Foundation, The Florida Grade Level Reading Campaign, The Office of Early Learning, and The United Way of Florida.

We lead 101 small and large Floridian cities and counties, comprising millions of citizens in blue and red districts. We have come together to do everything we can for our youngest children. This is not an unselfish act. We are acting in our own best interests, and the best interests of our cities, by valuing investment in children five and under. If we do not invest in children today, we will pay tenfold in the future.

Please, Governor DeSantis, make investment in our youngest children a priority for Florida.

Sincerely,

101 Mayors of Florida



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Scott Singer, City of Boca Raton
Wayne H. Poston, City of Bradenton
Catherine D. Robinson, City of Bunnell
Pamn Henderson, City of Callaway
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Henry J. Hawkins, Town of Century
Tracy Andrews, City of Chipley
Mali Gardner, City of Clewiston
Ben Malik, City of Cocoa Beach
Greg Ross, City of Cooper City
Raul Valdes-Fauli, City of Coral Gables
Derrick L. Henry, City of Daytona Beach
Robert A. Campbell, City of DeFuniak Springs
Robert F. Apgar, City of DeLand
Gary Jarvis, City of Destin
Eddie Cole, Town of Eatonville
Raymond Bagshaw, City of Edgewood
Claudia V. Cubillos, Village of El Portal
John A. Miller, City of Fernandina Beach

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Tracey Gore, Town of Fort Myers Beach
Richard A. Rynearson, City of Fort Walton Beach
Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Evelyn Wilson, City of Groveland
Joy Adams, City of Hallandale Beach
Matthew D. Surrency, City of Hawthorne
Josh Levy, City of Hollywood
Stephen R. Shelley, City of Homestead
David A. Panicola, City of Indian Harbour Beach
Deb Gillis, Village of Islamorada, Village of Islands
Darnell Lumpkin, City of Jasper
Shon Owens, Town of Jay
Todd R. Wodraska, Town of Jupiter
Michael Davey, Village of Key Biscayne
Teri Johnston, City of Key West
Bill Mutz, City of Lakeland
Hazelle P. Rogers, City of Lauderdale Lakes
Chris Vincent, Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
Ken Thurston, City of Lauderhill
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Mark Bryant, City of Macclenny
Maggi Black, City of Madeira Beach
Ina Thompson, City of Madison
Barbara Krull, City of Mascotte



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Jordan Marlowe, City of Newberry	Alan Johnson, City of St. Pete Beach
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Smith Joseph, City of North Miami	Becky Bruner, City of Stuart
Anthony F. Defillipo, City of North Miami Beach	Michael J. Ryan, City of Sunrise
David B. Norris, Village of North Palm Beach	Daniel Dietch, Town of Surfside
Karen Ostrand, Town of Ocean Breeze	John Dailey, City of Tallahassee
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Frank C. Ortis, City of Pembroke Pines	Ed Wolf, City of Wildwood
	John Rees, City of Winter Garden

