

From: [Sarah San Martin](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Pre-K Programs
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 2:37:30 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this on behalf of myself, parents, and students who have benefited from Pre-K. I teach 4 & 5 year olds and see the benefit and importance of it every single day! It amazes me year after year where my students come to me at and where they leave me at. So much is gained in a year of a quality Pre-K program! These students enter Kindergarten at a much higher place than they ever would have without coming to my classroom. Parents, school members and community members thank us for supporting their children and are very much pleased with what we do. I have had parents shed tears at the place their child has come to. I have had parents blown away at the work we were able to accomplish with their child that they didn't dream of happening within a year. I have been able to help parents see areas where their child needed help and services in. We can catch earlier disabilities that we can serve now and get them ahead for their school years. Our results show that Pre-K gives students a head start to succeed academically and socially in Kindergarten where a lot of their peers without Pre-K stand. I know without a doubt that this is such an important program and if anything, more Preschool opportunities should be added instead of cut. The demands in Kindergarten are becoming higher than ever and having this jump start only benefits our students and prepares them for what lies ahead. I feel fulfilled and blessed on a daily basis when I can help a child learn to control their emotions, work with peers, and learn pre academic skills that they might not learn any where else. It is with that said, that I plead with those making the decisions to remove funding to consider what that would mean to families who rely on these supports and programs offered to their young child. I ask you to reconsider and look at the impact we are making on students and what that would mean if we could no longer do that. Thank you.

Sarah San Martin