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Statement of Amy O’Leary, Campaign Director at Strategies for Children, regarding Universal Pre-K

“We have a significant achievement gap and we won’t close it until we invest more in high-quality early education. Too many children show up for school already behind. Too many of them will never catch up. Investing in high-quality early education produces a return on investment of 10-16% according to leading economists. This is a sound investment and smart public policy.

Experts agree that high-quality early education has a lifetime impact on young learners in terms of greater academic readiness, higher test scores and improved social skills. In states that make it a priority to educate our youngest children studies clearly show students are more likely to read and do math at grade level, less likely to be retained a grade or incur costly special education placements, and more likely to graduate high school.

Both Democratic and Republican governors and legislatures across the country are prioritizing new investments in early education because it is proven to help close the achievement gap.”

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