

Early education programs are good investment

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The brightest spot is early education: It's essential for the future economic, social growth of our community.

These are difficult times. Anyone who is alive knows that the world, let alone the state, is in economic and social crisis. As a mother, grandmother, businesswoman and responsible citizen, I know that the continued bipartisan efforts of Gov. Rendell and the Legislature must continue to support early education programs -- Pre-K Counts, Head Start, Keystone STARS, Nurse-Family Partnership -- prioritizing it through these budget negotiations. It is our bridge to a better economy and brighter future not only for the children but for all.

A Cornell University study states that every dollar Pennsylvania invests in early childhood programs helps circulate more than two dollars throughout our local economies. Today, when parents have access to reliable early education, they can stay in the work force, have less absenteeism and be more productive.

Children who have access to quality early education are more likely to attend college or job training, have higher earnings and own a home. Their success translates into quality employees for our companies and more tax revenue for the state.

Don't cut Pennsylvania's future short -- continue investment in early education.