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Investments pay off sooner, and later

I was happy to see Gov. Wolf and law enforcement officials make the anticrime case for quality, early-childhood education ("Wolf: Invest in preschool, not prison," May 27). Members of the business community see another critical benefit: strengthening our economy and workforce.

Research highlighted by the national business-leader group ReadyNation shows that investing in these programs yields up to \$26,000 in net long-term economic benefits for every child served. In addition, Pennsylvania communities providing expanded access to pre-K experience an immediate economic stimulus from their investment, with returns of \$1.79 for every \$1 spent.

While it is great to hear what law enforcement leaders are saying about early education's long-term impact on crime, the financial benefits show that investing in quality pre-K programs also makes good sense for the economy - a classic win-win investment strategy.

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