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LETTER - State funding cuts for early childhood education will cost us

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**By Sara DeGarmo
Holland**

Posted Aug 13, 2009 @ 12:47 PM

Holland, MI — My husband and I were both born and raised in Ottawa County. Last summer we made a choice with the declining job market to take the opportunity to move to Arizona. We chose an area with both good schools and low crime. However, as good as their schools were they did not have the programs that Michigan provided such as, Project Charlie, SCAN, Junior Achievement, Girls on the Run, Big Read (red) Bus, and even basic sex education. We have since come back to our home so our children will have the benefits provided here is Michigan.

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Everyone knows that state lawmakers have to make massive cuts to the state budget this summer. However, I am extremely disheartened by the budget cuts lawmakers have proposed. These cuts could all but wipe out programs for children 0-5 in Michigan in order to balance the budget. The Michigan Children's Web site indicates the proposed cuts from the school aid budget would cut funding per student by \$110. Also eliminating programs like the 0 to 3 Secondary Prevention program, Early Childhood Investment Corporation and Great Start School Readiness grants, just to name a few. They will also cripple non-profits and make the services they provide almost nonexistent.

If lawmakers do not find another way to balance the budget, we can look forward to more kids in our K-12 system

with social, emotional, educational, and physical problems that could be corrected before they ever got to school. This is not good for our children, their teachers or Michigan's economy in the long run. The research shows that kids who aren't ready for school early on often struggle their entire educational careers, and on into adulthood. If we want to improve Michigan, we have to start with our youngest.

Comments (12)

jag1979

18 hours ago

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I remember not having these programs and our children had higher achievement scores. Sex ed for these 'children' there not even 5 years old yet. Its amazing how we have 'programs' do what every family should do 'we can look forward to more kids in our K-12 system with social, emotional, educational, and physical problems that could be corrected before they ever got to school.' what an amazing statement. What ever happened to Mom and Dad bring up their own children?

NDU1978

17 hours ago

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Now just wait a minute. When I went to school, we did not have any of these programs and for the most part, we received a good education and were emotionally balanced. Jag1979 brings us a good point in that much of what these programs bring to the table can be taught by parents. Can't parents be parents anymore?

Y U Crying

17 hours ago

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jag;

Your last question is exactly right on. Now if you could only provide an answer and solution to your question... then I would be greatly impressed. It is to bad that not all kids are equally ready to start school.

I applaud programs like 'Kids Hope' and other such programs. They are very caring people who volunteer their time and talents.

Sex ed is not taught to the young five kids. The writer is talking about the older kids... I am sure. She is talking about other programs that are offered in the area (like GOTR, JA, etc.). BTW, both are run by volunteers too.

CleosMom

17 hours ago

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So is the writer saying the volunteer rate is far higher in the Holland area than in Arizona? I'm pretty sure it is.

lan

15 hours ago

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Sara wrote...

'State funding cuts for early childhood education will cost us '

'This is not good for our children, their teachers or Michigans economy in the long run.'

I agree 100%.

note to bidy...

Taking the LONGview...it's worth it in the end.

djsirtin

13 hours ago

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alot of parents think that they can be career people and raise kids. why don't you ask young jonny/jane if they would rather have a teacher/caretaker for the day or mom/dad I know having money and stuff is important but arn't your kids more than that. parents can teach so much more of lifes lessons. but hay enjoy that bmw instead.

big al

12 hours ago

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Our state law makers are eager to make cuts in education so they can remain among the highest paid state politicians in the country.

tbtr6

11 hours ago

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and cutting there pay will impact that how? Highest paid or not deserved or not? What are you saying? Cut out everyone who does not pass a drug test who receives any state or federal money ..there is your savings

Ataraxia

1 hour ago

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The problem is if we do not take care of our kids of today, the adults of tomorrow will not take of the state.

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We are short changing education and every, and I mean every legislator I talked to did not care!!

HonestOpinion

1 hour ago

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If money were the answer then why does study after study show that education results are not affected by the amount of money per pupil spent (above a certain necessary amount)?

Ian

46 minutes ago

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'If money were the answer then why does study after study show that education results are not affected by the amount of money per pupil spent (above a certain necessary amount)?'

'Cause money (alone) is not the answer?

It matters more what the money is spent on. The quality-effectiveness of the programs.

Involvement also helps. Involvement of parents, teachers, the community, business etc. etc. (oh ya...the students too).

I have another idea...spend less on administration and more on EDUCATION.

PrincessDragon

25 minutes ago

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This cut also includes special education for the early childhood programs. So are you saying that those kids have parents that do not have time for them? Well, I know better. My daughter has cerebral palsy. Her schooling is in danger because of this change. I stay at home, Do pt with her 5x a week work on reading etc. However, the ECSE program is the best thing that happened to her. Now the funding is going to be taken away. Our children, ALL our children are the future and the government is saying 'Oh well, Not enough money' I can't believe that this could happen.

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