

215 S Washington Sq, Suite 110
Lansing, MI 48933

Contact: Bobby Dorigo Jones, (517) 648-5072, robert@michiganschildren.org



Public policy
in the best interest
of children.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michigan's Children Applauds Governor for Highlighting *Early On*, Urges Evidence-Based K-12 Investments

Michigan's Children issued the following statement on Governor Rick Snyder's 2018 State of the State address:

During last night's State of the State address, Governor Rick Snyder illustrated the impact of a program underfunded in Michigan, *Early On*. He relayed how a family with a young son was connected to community resources to assist with their toddler's mobility challenges caused by a developmental delay through the work of his *Early On* coordinator. Later the governor and later announced his intention to propose the largest per pupil K-12 funding increase in 15 years.

Michigan's Children applauds the Governor for highlighting *Early On Michigan*, a critical budget need that has received widespread support by the education and advocacy communities, including in the recently released Special Education Task Force report, and urges an evidence-based approach to allocating any increased K-12 investment, targeted toward practices that assist children and youth and their families facing educational challenges, in order for them to have the greatest impact for student and family learning.

Matthew Gillard, President & CEO of Michigan's Children, was excited to see public recognition given to such a program. "*Early On* is one of the most effective tools we have that builds family capacity to assist infant and toddler development and supports early and K-12 learning," he said. "For years, we and others have called on the state to fix its patchwork funding model, which cannot meet the needs of thousands of struggling families in many counties, leaving young children without support, and our K-12 schools with higher special education costs down the road."

"We urge our policymakers to find a statewide funding solution for *Early On* to prepare all children and their families to face whatever learning obstacles come their way in school and beyond."

Mr. Gillard also appreciated the Governor's proposed K-12 funding increase. "It's great to see our governor recognize need to invest more. We urge that funding increases provide schools with the tools they need to educate students whose families face the greatest challenges. Clear strategies to best target those funds are present in research and best practice, and are building through the School Finance Research Collaborative."

###

Early On Michigan IDEA Part C works with families to identify developmental delays in their young children from birth through age 2, provides skill building and support, and helps connect them additional services. Early On's home-based program equips parents with the tools they need to be effective partners in their child's development and learning. The program shows incredible results: 84 percent of the 19,000 families involved with Early On report developmental growth.

Michigan's Children is the only statewide independent voice working to ensure that public policies are made in the best interest of children and their families from cradle to career. Our emphasis is on influencing public policies to close equity gaps and ensure that children and youth who face the most challenges have supports they need to succeed in school and life.