



THE EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT CORPORATION

CAPITOL

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STATE UPDATE

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Activity reached a frenzied pace in Lansing this week as the Legislature tried to move the budget process along before their scheduled two-week break. The goal of having all of the budget bills referred to Conference Committees before the break was met with the exception of the State Police budget, which was delayed due to a controversy surrounding a new headquarters building. Notable actions this week include:

- The full Senate passed out their 2010 School Aid budget which contained \$410 million in cuts from current year spending levels. Included in these cuts were the elimination of the Great Start Readiness Program (\$104 million), the elimination of Great Parents, Great Start funding (\$5.0 million), the elimination of 0-3 Secondary Prevention funding (\$2.125 million) and a \$750,000 cut to Great Start Collaborative funding. The bill was passed on a party line vote with the Republicans supporting the plan and the Democrats opposed.
- The full Senate passed out their version of the fiscal year 2010 Department of Community Health budget. The budget contained massive cuts to many important child health and safety programs. In total, over \$500 million in General Fund spending was cut from the current year spending levels. The bill was passed along party lines, with Republicans supporting the plan and the Democrats opposed.
- The House did not concur with these Senate plans and also zeroed out the Senate Department of Human Services budget that had passed last week and sent all of these measures to Conference Committees.

The legislative leaders and administration officials will now begin meeting to establish target spending numbers for each budget. In order to do this, they will have to first agree on the amount of available stimulus money they will use this year and whether any additional revenue in the form of tax loophole closings or otherwise will be available. Once the target numbers are agreed to, the individual Conference Committee members will begin to negotiate their respective budgets.

Attached is a document outlining some of the cuts affecting young children and their families that were contained in the various plans passed by the Senate in the past two weeks. The Senate Republicans have lived up to their commitment of cutting \$1.4 billion from the state's budget. Unfortunately, they have decided to do this by balancing this budget on the backs of young children and their families. **NOW IS THE TIME TO TELL YOUR LEGISLATORS THESE CUTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**



PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT: Summary of Senate Cuts/ Reduction by Great Start Component Area

