



THE EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT CORPORATION

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## STATE UPDATE

Friday, August 28, 2009

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The Legislature was back in Lansing this week with the House in session on Wednesday and the Senate in session on Wednesday and Thursday. Once again, official legislative activity remained light this week. Closed-door negotiations continue between legislative leaders from both the House and the Senate and the Governor's office. Negotiations on individual department budgets will not begin in earnest until the Speaker of the House, Senate Majority Leader and Governor agree in broad terms to the level of cuts, amount of stimulus money to be used, and the amount of new revenue to be used in balancing the budget deficit.

The rhetoric at least appears to be heating up in Lansing as the Governor and Senate Majority Leader each openly expressed frustration this week that a deal has yet to be reached on solving the fiscal year 2010 budget. With negotiations between Speaker Dillon, Senate Majority Leader Bishop, and Governor Granholm seemingly either stalled or yet to begin in earnest, there is growing speculation amongst Lansing insiders that we are headed toward a repeat of the 2007 budget showdown that infamously resulted in a 4 hour shutdown of state government. While there are many different factors involved in this year's showdown, including the dramatic decline in state revenues and the availability of federal stimulus dollars, the philosophical differences between the two sides remain the same. All sides have publicly committed to avoiding this scenario, but the clock is definitely ticking. The pressure to resolve the showdown will naturally continue to build as we head into September.

The advocacy and out-reach efforts of early childhood supporters continue to be heard and felt statewide. I know from talking to legislators that they are hearing from all of you about the value and importance of investing in early childhood programs. These efforts must continue. The decisions made in Lansing in the next month will have an undeniable impact on the future of our state. It is more imperative than ever for us to continue our advocacy efforts and let our elected officials know that we will not tolerate this budget being balanced on the backs of young children and their families.



powered by the  
Early Childhood  
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In addition, we are still encouraging groups to visit Lansing on session days between now and Oct.1<sup>st</sup>. If you are able and willing to organize a group of advocates, regardless of size, from your local community to visit Lansing on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between now and the end of September please contact your Great Start Collaborative to arrange details through the ECIC.



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