

QUICK TALKING POINTS

Message: Afterschool shouldn't be an afterthought: Protecting our kids means protecting our future.

- Youth who attend high quality afterschool programs exhibit better work habits in school, have better attendance records and fewer behavioral problems.
- They are also less likely to use drugs, become teen parents, or commit or be victimized by crime and other delinquent behavior.
- Youth development experts have calculated that society reaps more than a \$10 return for every \$1 invested in high quality afterschool programs.

Message: It's as simple as ABC: Early learning supports working families today for a productive tomorrow.

- Quality early childhood learning is crucial to school readiness; children entering school ready to succeed are much more likely to do so.
- At least 60% of mothers are working part or all of the week and need child care. Having access to quality, affordable child care is one of the most important factors involved in parents being able to enter and remain in the workforce.
- There is an increased need for services due to the welfare to work regulations. In order for women to truly build economic independence, there must be child care available that is affordable and safe.

Message: Their health is in your hands: Make sure your vote is the right prescription.

- Healthy children learn better. It is difficult for children with unattended chronic health problems to focus on learning.
- Children with health coverage miss less school, resulting in better overall learning outcomes.
- When treated efficiently and in a timely manner, minor illness does not turn into costly chronic illness—a significant savings.