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Michigan News



Child advocates host "Sandbox Party Convention"



Sarah Hulett (2010-08-23)

DETROIT (MICHIGAN RADIO) - Both candidates for Michigan governor are expected to appear at a non-partisan convention this week hosted by a group of advocates for early childhood programs.

Judy Samelson heads the Early Childhood Investment Corporation - which is sponsoring what it calls the "Sandbox Party" convention.

She says the group is looking for commitments from politicians that they won't cut early childhood programs like pre-Kindergarten and child care.

"It just makes economic good sense, but it's hard to get people there," said Samelson. "There's a tendency to think, oh they have time. You know, we have budget problems. We'll deal with this later. But we can't deal with it later."

Samelson says advocates mobilized after a failed proposal last year to eliminate pre-K funding in order to balance the budget.

The convention will be held on Thursday on the Michigan State University campus.

Contact Sarah Hulett at sarahhu@umich.edu © Copyright 2010, [Michigan Radio](#)

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