



THE EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT CORPORATION

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STATE UPDATE

Friday, May 14, 2010

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The Legislature finally reached agreement on the public school employee retirement incentive package that the Governor had originally proposed back in February. The legislation passed both the House and Senate with predominantly Republican support early Friday morning after a marathon session. The non-partisan Senate Fiscal Agency estimates the savings to local school districts to be \$680 million in the first year alone. The Michigan Education Association disputes this figure and argues that far fewer teachers than anticipated will choose to retire and the savings will be much less. The passage of the retirement reform paves the way for the Legislature to begin negotiations in earnest on the School Aid budget for the 2011 fiscal year.

Also this week the Senate passed out their proposal for the fiscal year 2011 Department of Human Services budget. The Senate version contained specific language de-funding the Michigan Home Based Child Care Council as well as boilerplate language prohibiting the department from funding the council in other ways. The funding of the MHBCCC has been a contentious issue within the Legislature as the money for the council was not appropriated by the Legislature in the current year budget, but the Granholm Administration chose to fund the council anyway. The creation of the council and the subsequent unionization of home-based child care workers is the subject of a lawsuit filed against



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the state by the Mackinac Center which is currently being litigated. Unfortunately, all of the attention surrounding the council and union have made it incredibly difficult for early childhood supporters to argue for improvements to the Child Care and Development Program.

With Star Power 2010 fast approaching on May 19th, it is imperative that we get ready to ramp up our advocacy efforts. We have pre-registered a record number of participants already and Star Power will be an excellent opportunity to kick off our budget advocacy efforts. The record turnout at Star Power will certainly leave an impression on legislators, but it is critical that we continue our advocacy efforts after the event as the budget negotiations continue.



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