



THE EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT CORPORATION

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## STATE UPDATE

Friday, December 17, 2010

**Matt Gillard**

[mgillard@ecic4kids.org](mailto:mgillard@ecic4kids.org)

The Legislature finally wrapped up the “lame-duck” session this week as both the House and Senate returned on Wednesday to complete some procedural steps necessary for the final bills to be advanced to Governor Granholm for her signature. As expected, overall legislative activity was light during the “lame-duck” session. None of the major controversial issues that remain outstanding were addressed as outgoing Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop made it clear that he would prefer to allow the Snyder Administration to address the issues with the new Legislature when they all take office in January. Two separate issues with relative importance to the early childhood community did receive some attention during the “lame-duck” session. The Federal “EduJobs” bill, which was passed by Congress last summer, gave Michigan \$316 million to preserve education jobs. The Legislature reached an agreement on how to appropriate this money that included restoring \$10 million to Intermediate School Districts (ISDs). This was important for early childhood supporters because many ISDs use their general fund dollars to support early childhood programs in their communities. On the other hand, despite strong bi-partisan urging from House Majority Floor Leader Kathy Angerer and Lieutenant Governor-elect Brian Calley, the Senate failed to pass the autism insurance coverage legislation. Look for this issue to be revisited early in the next legislative session.

In other news, Governor-elect Rick Snyder continues to announce key members of his new administration. In a show of bi-partisanship, Snyder named outgoing Democratic House Speaker Andy Dillon as State Treasurer. Later today Snyder is expected to introduce Olga Dazzo, the former president and CEO of Physicians Health Plan at Sparrow Health System, as director of the Department of Community Health. On Thursday, incoming Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville and incoming Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer issued a joint press release announcing the Senate committee assignments for the upcoming legislative session. Of particular importance to supporters of early childhood investment are the Appropriations subcommittees for Community Health, Human Services, and School Aid:

- Community Health: Sen.-elect John Moolenaar (R-Midland), chair; Sen.-elect Vincent Gregory (D-Southfield), minority vice chair
- Human Services: Sen.-elect Bruce Caswell (R-Hillsdale), chair; Sen.-elect Vincent Gregory (D-Southfield), minority vice chair
- K-12, School Aid and Education: Sen.-elect Howard Walker (R-Traverse City), chair; Sen.-elect Hoon-Yung Hopgood, minority vice chair

Incoming House Speaker Jase Bolger is expected to announce the House committee assignments for the upcoming legislative session soon.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS