

BUFFETT INSTITUTE/GALLUP SURVEY

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENTS

Senator Galen Hadley, Speaker of the Nebraska Legislature:

“There is a saying, ‘A rising tide lifts all boats.’ In the state of Nebraska now, the rising tide is early childhood education. The boats are those children out there that right now do not have the opportunities they should have. And so we need to raise that tide as we go on, so each of those children has a chance to rise in their life in the future and become better citizens.

I know the Legislature will take this to heart. There, we have some conservative people in the Legislature that sometimes talk about roles of families and roles of government, but we need to come back and tell them this is also a dollar and a cents proposition. We get such a return for every dollar we spend that it is just criminal that we're not spending more on this particular area.”

Hank Bounds, President, University of Nebraska:

“Some say we can't afford to invest in early education. I would say we cannot afford *not* to invest. It is important in everything else we do down the road.”

Matt Blomstedt, Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Education:

“We know from our data and research that, once we have a measurable gap that starts before Kindergarten, that gap persists throughout the student's career. How do we spend our time and resources making sure that gap doesn't exist in the first place? That's a smart investment, a reasonable investment.”

Barry Kennedy, President, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry:

“It's been proven, children learn rapidly and more easily in their earliest years and also develop social skills and that teamwork mentality, which is extremely vital in today's workforce or workplace atmosphere.

Very few—if any—alternative investments can promise the kind of return that early childhood education does. Business leaders need to become engaged in sharing their concerns and encouraging the redistribution of resources, I think, toward early childhood education.”

Douglas County Sheriff Tim Dunning:

“If you look behind this poll data you'll see it actually points to a great opportunity to improve public safety. Law enforcement leaders in Nebraska and across the nation know that if more kids develop a foundation for long-term academic success they'll be a lot less likely to drop out and become involved in crime. We all want to see more kids in caps and gowns and fewer in orange jumpsuits and handcuffs.”

Major General (Ret.) Mark Musick, U.S. Air Force:

“This poll strengthens the national security argument for quality early learning. Retired admirals and generals across the nation are justifiably concerned that 1 in 5 young adults cannot qualify for military service because they cannot pass the entrance exam of basic reading, math and thinking skills. Expanding the availability of quality preschool will get more kids on track for success in school, and for careers in the military for those who choose to serve.”