Working Families and the Struggle to Find Early Childcare and Education

December 7, 2018
How I Became Interested

- Elementary School Teacher (1974-76)
- First Lady Tonette Walker’s Fostering Futures (2011)
- Legislative Council Study Committee for Supporting Healthy Early Brain Development (2014)
- Legislative Children’s Caucus Steering Committee (2015)
- Development of the Wisconsin Legislative Children’s Caucus (2016)
2016 Midwestern Legislative Conference

- **Chair’s Initiative:** Focusing on policies that strengthen families, improve child well-being and lead to better long-term outcomes
- **Articles in Stateline Midwest**
- **Plenary Speaker, Nobel Prize-winning Economist James Heckman**
The Heckman Equation

Presenting The Heckman Equation

INVEST in early education for disadvantaged children

+ DEVELOP cognitive skills, social abilities and healthy behaviors early

+ SUSTAIN early development with effective education through to adulthood

= GAIN a more capable and productive workforce

James Heckman, from Lifecycle Benefits

High quality birth-to-five programs for disadvantaged children can deliver a

13% Return on Investment

Starting earlier provides greater returns. Learn more.

www.heckmanequation.org
Wisconsin Legislative Children’s Caucus

- Steering committee created in 2015
- The Legislative Children’s Caucus is a bipartisan, bicameral caucus
- The purpose of the caucus is to cultivate a legislature dedicated to advancing promising, evidence-informed public policy that improves the life of every Wisconsin child, from the prenatal stages through age 18
- Caucus officially launched in 2016
Wisconsin Legislative Children’s Caucus

- Legislation v. Education
- The caucus is a joint effort to create a sustainable forum to educate legislators and build bi-partisan support for promising, evidence-informed investments in children and families
- Third-party administrative partner
Dr. Seth Pollak | Nature Vs. Nurture

To view the full presentation click here: http://www.wiseye.org/Video-Archive/Event-Detail/evhid/10548
Children’s Caucus Events

- Kickoff Event (April 2016)
- Informational Meeting Series: Community Efforts to Strengthen Families (March 2017)
- Wisconsin’s KIDS COUNT data presentation (November 2017)
- The Behavior Clinic and Early Pathways Mental Health Program for Preschoolers in Poverty (February 2018)
- Early Interventions Through Innovative Collaborations: La Crosse County’s Neighborhood Based Approach (November 2018)
Things to Take Home

- Create a steering committee
- Utilize organizations who can help
  - CSG, NCSL, NGA
- Be mindful – educate, legislate, advocate?
- Third-party administrative partners
- Plan beyond your term
Contact Information

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