

## Vote NO On Preschool!

*Throughout the U.S., legislation is being introduced to extend public schooling to include preschoolers. Please help protect our young children, support parental rights, and strengthen America's families by voting NO.*

In most cases, the initiatives, bills, and legislation seek to establish voluntary, half-day, state-run preschools for all young children (ages 3-4) effectively creating a government monopoly on preschool programs. If passed, states will strongly encourage parents to enroll their children in the programs, and private preschools (most of which are owned and operated by women and minorities) will be put out of business, reducing affordable private options for families.

The preschool campaigns in each state claim that children who go to preschool do better in kindergarten and elementary school, graduate from high school, attend college, get better jobs with higher salaries and are less likely to do drugs and commit crimes than those who don't. These claims are based on misinterpreted data. Child development experts warn there are dangerous downsides.

**The National Institute of Child Health and Development** says that children who attend structured, curriculum-oriented, non-parental involved preschools are stressed out. They have higher cortisol (stress hormone) levels from being separated from their parents and exposed to academics too early. The results? Frequent illness, childhood diseases (including obesity), poor work habits, and long-term problem behaviors.

**The Alliance For Childhood** issued a proclamation signed by over 60 leading doctors, researchers, and experts in the fields of child development including **David Elkind, Kathy Hirsch-Pasek, Mary Eberstadt, Howard Gardner, and Jane Healy** expressing deep concern that, "Current trends in early education policy and practice heighten pressure and stress in children's lives, which can contribute to behavioral and learning problems." Standardized preschool programs are ineffective and can harm the healthy intellectual, physical, psychological, emotional, and social development of young children.

Many families choose to send their 3- and 4-year-olds to private preschools, and that's their option. Underprivileged families already receive federal and state funds to send their children to preschool if they choose. So why the push to get the rest of the nation's children in school earlier? The incentives aren't encouraging:

\* **A 2005 report** issued by the Economic Policy Institute says preschool-for-all will allow the state to properly manage kids through the school system, so that they will grow up to become human resources that contribute to and thus save Social Security.

\* **Proponents of Preschool-For-All** say it will manage the 39% of the preschool population that doesn't speak English. Getting non-English speaking children into school before kindergarten could save the state significant "special needs" education funds. In the event voluntary preschool doesn't result in enrollment of the targeted population, mandatory preschool could be proposed.

\* **Universal Preschool** will provide job security for teachers and administrators; it will provide lucrative contracts to curriculum, transportation, and food service providers, to construction and maintenance companies, as well as to school psychologists, and drug companies.

While Preschool-For-All is being introduced as voluntary, there is plenty of inferred evidence that within 10-20 years preschools will be mandatory and will be extended to all children ages 2-5. The economic payoffs of preschool programs to special interest groups can't be denied, but the cost to our children and our families is far too great a price to pay.

Please join us in opposing Universal Preschool legislation and vote NO!

Universal Preschool is a broad-based, non-partisan advocacy campaign to protect parents' rights to determine the best educational course for their young children and to oppose the implementation of government mandated and funded "preschool for all" programs for children ages 0-5. For a full discussion of the Preschool-For-All initiative and details on who'll be burdened with the costs of implementing the program, visit our web site at [www.universalpreschool.com](http://www.universalpreschool.com).