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## **Ounce of Prevention Fund Illinois Legislative Agenda**

Spring 2018/FY2019

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### **Increase and protect early childhood funding in a full-year, fully-funded budget, which:**

- **Increases the Early Childhood Block Grant by \$50 million** to ensure that more children, from birth to age 5 are able to participate in high-quality early learning programs that meet their families' needs; as well as to honor our Preschool Development Grant obligation to the federal government.
- **Provides level funding for voluntary home visiting programs** (Parents Too Soon and Healthy Families budget line—Department of Human Services) to allow those programs to continue to recover from the budget impasse.
- **Rejects proposed cuts to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)** in order to implement 12-month eligibility, which provides better stability for children and is required by federal law.
- **Increases funding for Early Intervention** services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays to better respond to the need for services.

**Support SB2227/HB5828 to re-appropriate Early Childhood Construction Grants** that have gone unfunded during the budget impasse and urge their inclusion in FY2019 budget bills. 13 of the early childhood facilities projects funded by the 2010 capital bill had either not completed work or received final payment before the budget impasse began.

**Support HB4965 to implement a twelve-month redetermination period for Child Care Assistance Program** eligibility, as required by federal law, pursuant to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014.

**Ensure that school funding reform legislation includes provisions to correctly account** for preschool English language learners and preschool special education students in calculating districts' evidence-based funding levels.

**Improve investments in and remove barriers** to more early childhood practitioners entering the field, and moving toward increased credentials and obtaining their Professional Educator Licenses.