



THE EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT CORPORATION

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STATE EDITION

With the Legislature still on break, the only real activity in Lansing this week was the large “Tea Party” at the Capitol to protest taxes. Estimates are that 5,000 people showed up for the event. Would that Star Power would look so good!!

Legislators have been working behind closed doors to identify potential spending cuts for the current fiscal year. As we indicated last week, state revenue collections continue to come in well under earlier projections. The Governor met with legislative leaders and agreed on a target number of \$780 million as the current projected shortfall for this fiscal year. That number will have to be achieved through a combination of spending reductions and the use of available stimulus dollars. The Governor will most likely present an Executive Order with her proposed cuts to the Legislature next week. As details of any proposed spending cuts emerge, we will keep you aware of any potential impacts to early childhood activities.

We also continue to push forward with our state-wide media outreach strategy. As Judy discussed with you on Thursday, we are focusing our efforts around key legislative leaders and targeting their districts for as much information and activity as possible to showcase the importance of early childhood investment. While all legislative members are important, following are those who will have a key decision making role on early childhood investment over the next several months:

In the Senate: Bishop (Rochester), Jelinek (Three Oaks-St. Joseph), Kuipers (Holland); Hardiman (Grand Rapids); Prusi (UP); Switalski (Macomb)

In the House: Dillon (Redford); Cushingberry (Detroit); Brown (Thumb); Melton (Auburn Hills); Spade (Adrian/Tecumseh/Lenawee); Elsenheimer (Kewadin); Moss (Birmingham); Proos (St. Joseph); Allen (Traverse City).

As information and outreach is prepared, these areas will be our primary focus. But again, it is important that we do everything we can to educate all members whenever possible.

We have developed several different issue pieces which will be distributed to different media outlets throughout the state. We will do our best to give you advance notice when something is coming up in your area although it won't always be in our control. Thank you in advance for your understanding. When an op-ed is picked up by your local newspaper, we will provide you with follow up materials so we can be sure we are doing everything possible to build awareness and knowledge about early childhood.

We can expect a much more active week next week as the Legislature returns to action.