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CAVALIER JOHNSON
ALDERMAN, 2ND DISTRICT

Strong families and communities start with early education

Statement by Alderman Cavalier Johnson
October 27, 2017

The legislation sponsored by State Representative Genrich and State Senator Bewley invests in early childhood education opportunities for our youth. This legislation (*LRB 0787/1: 4K Equity Act*) shows that we are committed to making a better, stronger, and fairer society by fully funding four-year-old kindergarten programs. The benefits of early childhood education are clear; children attending full-day preschools score higher on school readiness indicators and have better attendance than did peers in part-time programs. As we see increases in spending on the criminal justice system, this bill is a common sense step forward to invest in our youth upfront and better prepare them for a bright future.

Lack of access to quality childhood education is a major root cause of academic failure, inability to join the workforce and the military, plus crime. Investing upfront in early childhood education increases better academic outcomes and decreases educational disparities, better preparing individuals for a bright future. The goal to create a society where every person has the opportunity to achieve their full potential and become contributing members of society starts with early childhood education. The foundations of strong civic societies rest on the shoulders of well-educated and capable individuals.

In order to continue building on this foundation, we need to provide the resources and opportunities for our children to succeed. This legislation focuses on building strong families and strong communities by investing in this critical stage of development for our children. I fully support State Representative Genrich and State Senator Bewley's efforts to invest in our children's future. This legislation gets it right.

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