

VOTE “NO” ON HOUSE BILL 935



As a community, Charlotte Mecklenburg is committed to helping all children reach their fullest potential. Through public investment in quality Pre-Kindergarten programs, we ensure a strong start in school to many children who may otherwise not have access. The county has shown its commitment to our children by funding our local Pre-K program called Bright Beginnings, in the amount of \$9.4 million, which reaches 2,941 four year olds each year. Currently, the State only provides funding for 864 children to attend NC Pre-K in Charlotte Mecklenburg, far below what is needed and almost \$3 million dollars less than our local investment.

The sad truth is that even our local commitment is not enough to serve the more than 7,700 four year olds who are in need of a quality Pre-K program but would otherwise be unable to attend.

HB935, would reduce the current income eligibility for the NC Pre-K program by half, by setting the limit for families at only 100% of federal poverty level (\$19,530 for a family of three) compared to the current eligibility limit 75% of state median income, or about 200% of the federal poverty level. This is a step backwards in the critical need for early interventions for our children. Both state and national studies show that children arrive better prepared academically, socially and emotionally for kindergarten when they have had access to a Pre-K program compared to those who have not. In addition, national studies of model pre-school programs demonstrate significant improvements in long-term outcomes for children including lower rates of juvenile crime, increased high school graduation, and increases in adult employment and homeownership. In addition, high-quality pre-school offers one of the highest returns of any public investment – economists’ estimates more than \$7 for every dollar spent.

North Carolina needs to make a commitment to its future by investing in our children today. Charlotte Mecklenburg knows this and needs the State to **INCREASE** its investment in our children not narrow the eligibility requirements.

Contact members of the Mecklenburg Delegation and let them know that **the State needs to support children MORE**

, not less. Remind them that our local commitments show our community's support for Pre-K programs. If we can find the money to make this a priority, then the State can find the money too.

Below is the contact information for the House members of the Mecklenburg delegation. It is important that they hear from YOU.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Call or email our Mecklenburg representatives, encourage others to do so.

HB392: This bill has cleared committee and is being voted on in the house. We are currently targeting the entire Mecklenburg House Delegation:

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