



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Dear Legislator Pratt,

As your constituents, we the Pinal Regional Partnership Council want you to know that we want you to support First Things First!

The First Things First vision is that all Arizona children birth through age five are afforded opportunities to achieve their maximum potential to succeed in school and life.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT IS NOT A “NICE TO HAVE,” BUT INSTEAD IS A CORE NECESSITY:

- For ALL CHILDREN to have the opportunity to be successful in school and life.
- To reduce future public spending for prisons, welfare, and health care.
- To ensure a stronger economy, with a workforce that can compete globally.

The VOTER PROTECTION ACT is not the problem with the budget, nor is it the solution to the budget. First Things First (FTF) and most voter protection programs have a separate and dedicated funding source that was never intended to be available to the Legislature.

Seeking to overturn the voter protections to access funds never belonging to the Legislature is STEALING what voters approved only for very specific purposes.

BALANCING THE BUDGET on the backs of children and sacrificing their future is an unacceptable public policy.

Taking FTF funds removes \$620 Million from the state’s economy throughout the next five years. Money that would go directly to local communities such as ours and provide a substantial economic boost to local economies will instead be used by the Legislature for its own proposes. This would mean over \$29 million for Pinal County in the next 5 years. We are sure that you do not want to be responsible for this loss.

We are asking you to support FTF and Arizona voter’s pledge to increase early childhood education spending. Please for all young children in your district, in Pinal County, and all of Arizona, support First Things First.

Thank you for your personal consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Pinal Regional Partnership Council

Barbara Mezzio
Chair

Kai Gerkey
Vice Chair

Mary Allen
Member

Arnoldo Hernandez
Member

Mary Kyle
Member

Christina Jenkins
Member

Melanie O’Neil
Member

Bryant Powell
Member

Charity Russell
Member