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Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Pre-K Education Press Conference Today at 12:30pm
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Pre-K Education Press Conference Today at 12:30pm
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022

WHO: State Senator Annette Taddeo (D-Miami)
State Representative Kamia Brown (D-Orlando)
State Representative Angie Nixon (D-Jacksonville)

WHAT: Press Conference on PRE-K EDUCATION

WHERE: In Front of the Senate Chamber

WHEN: Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022
12:30 PM

**Senator Annette Taddeo, Representatives Kamia Brown and Angie Nixon
Present Legislation Putting Florida Families First**

We need to be doing everything we can to support hard working families. Making childcare affordable while helping children along in their education is a win-win. Legislators will be discussing two bills [SB 1922](#)/[HB 1417](#) which will expand Pre-K from 3 hours a day to a full day for pre kindergarteners in public and private schools; and SB 1918/HB 1319 which will update the criteria for Florida's School Readiness Program providing access to quality education to families in low income communities.

Legislators offered the following statements on **SB 1922/HB 1417**:

Senator Taddeo said, "I'm proposing that we expand the prekindergarten to a full day, after all, who works 3 hours a day? This would go a long way towards helping ensure that no child falls behind and parents can get back to work. Study after study has shown the importance of a preschool education but far too many of our children haven't had this formative education. Florida currently invests \$13 dollars a day per student in PreK, I doubt very much that's what our voters had in mind when they passed a constitutional amendment guaranteeing universal pre-k."

Representative Kamia Brown said, "As a lawmaker, I understand the importance of early childhood education and am a strong believer that every child deserves the opportunity to build a good foundation for their education. By providing 1,440 hours of free instructional time, our children can receive substantive instruction that would prepare them to enter kindergarten and thrive."

Legislators offered the following statements on **SB 1918/HB 1319**:

Senator Annette Taddeo said, “By changing the eligibility criteria for the school readiness program we would be helping hundreds of thousands of students from low-income families get the support they need to succeed and have a real chance of realizing their own American Dream. Finances should not get in the way of a child’s education.”

Representative Angie Nixon said, “Access to quality early learning and school readiness programs can make or break the future of every child. As the Governor’s unmitigated ambition continues to sideline working families with his people last strategy, I knew I had to file legislation that puts Floridians first. From expanding access to childcare based on Florida’s unique economic trends, to ensuring a level playing field for families and providers regardless of zip code, this bill will help curb the second largest expense for families, ensuring they can focus on housing, food, and other necessities.”

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