

3/4/2025



The Honorable Members of the Ohio State Legislature
Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Members of the Ohio State Legislature,

As PNC regional president for Columbus, I am writing to express my support for Future Ready Five's \$2 million funding request amendment. Future Ready Five is a vital nonprofit organization that addresses key gaps in workforce preparedness by empowering our youngest learners with the skills, experiences and connections they need to succeed in both education and employment. The organization achieves this by focusing on learning check-ups for children ages 3-5, supporting central Ohio teachers and parents by providing the best early literacy curriculum and instructional practices, and offering personalized coaching for parents, preschools and early learning centers with the highest need.

At PNC, we've seen how investing in early education creates lasting benefits, not just for children and families, but for the businesses and communities we serve. Future Ready Five exemplifies this collaborative spirit, bringing together educators, employers and community leaders to provide academic support for our children, Ohio's future workforce. PNC has been committed to doing our part by investing our resources in supporting early childhood education through PNC Grow Up Great®, our signature philanthropic initiative. Since 2004, we've reached more than 10 million children across the country through this \$500 million, bilingual initiative. Our goal is to help prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and in life, with particular emphasis on underserved communities.

As we look toward Ohio's economic future, we must equip our children with the tools they need to thrive in a modern economy. This must start in the first five years of life. The \$2 million funding amendment will allow FR5 to scale its impact and ensure that more young Ohioans are prepared to contribute to our state's continued economic growth.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to securing Ohio's future workforce and economy. I strongly encourage you to support this funding request and help position our state as a national leader in innovative educational workforce development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mary Auch", written over a horizontal line.

Mary Auch
PNC Regional President, Columbus

The PNC Financial Services Group

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