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GENERATIONS UNITED RELEASES *Generations Unite for Quality Pre-K*

Today, Generations United released a report on the crucial role older adults in New York play in their support of universal, high-quality pre-kindergarten programs for all children.

The report, *Generations Unite for Quality Pre-K: New York*, shows that older New Yorkers recognize that pre-k benefits children and all of society by contributing to a capable workforce and saving taxpayers money. Pre-k increases high school graduation rates, helps children do better on standardized tests, and reduces delinquency. Every \$1 invested in high-quality pre-k saves taxpayers up to \$7.

Pre-k funding in the state has increased to \$452 million in the last two years. New York is currently enrolling 93,000 children in Pre-K, an increase of nearly 30,000 four-year-olds in 398 school districts. The implementation of universal pre-k—how it's done—is critically important and seniors 50+ will be instrumental in supporting efforts to increase quality and access to pre-k programs.

“All generations benefit when children attend high-quality pre-kindergarten,” said Donna Butts, executive director of Generations United. “Older adults care passionately about the children in their communities. They know they may not see tomorrow's leaders in action, but they want to know they did their part to prepare them.”

Karen Schimke, President of the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, one of the co-conveners of Winning Beginning NY, a statewide early care and education coalition, said that, “Investing in quality early care and education is a top public priority in New York State. We applaud Generations United for releasing this groundbreaking report and for supporting high-quality universal pre-k”.

Paul Arfin, New York State Coordinator for Seniors4Kids, said “As the grandfather of two children of preschool age, and father of two daughters who completed preschool, I know how important the first five years of life are in shaping basic values and attitudes towards learning and getting along with others. I, therefore, urge the Governor and the Legislature to invest in these extremely worthwhile programs.”

Generations United released *Generations Unite for Quality Pre-K: New York* in support of its Seniors4Kids initiative. Seniors4Kids (www.seniors4kids.org) is a civic engagement initiative that raises the visibility of older adults in support of youth issues.

Generations United, a membership organization of over 100 national, state, and local organizations representing more than 70 million Americans, works to improve the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational strategies, programs, and public policies.