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Doomsday Budget Proposal Jettisons Illinois's Standing As National Leader in Early Childhood Education

Plan would have devastating effects on education outcomes, economic health of state

CHICAGO -- By eliminating \$380 million in funding for the Early Childhood Block Grant, the "Doomsday" budget scenario outlined today by Governor Quinn would forfeit more than 20 years' worth of progress made toward narrowing the achievement gap and improving the school readiness of at-risk infants, toddlers and preschoolers in Illinois.

"The doomsday scenario would be a true nightmare for more than 100,000 young children dropped from Preschool for All and other early education programs," said Diana Rauner, Executive Director for the Ounce of Prevention Fund. "By preventing children from developing the skills needed to succeed in school and later as part of the workforce, the cuts will have an equally grim impact on the future health of Illinois's economy."

The Ounce is calling on the governor and the General Assembly to ensure adequate revenue to fully fund early childhood programs in the state. Illinois has long been regarded as a national leader in implementing high-quality, public early childhood programs.

The Ounce of Prevention Fund gives children in poverty the best chance for success in school and in life by advocating for and providing the highest quality care and education from birth to age five.

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