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GENERATIONS UNITED'S SENIORS4KIDS INITIATIVE ORGANIZES ADVOCACY DAY ACTIVITIES IN KENTUCKY

On Thursday, February 12, representatives from The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and Generations United 's Seniors4Kids spoke out on children's behalf at Advocacy Day 2009 in Frankfort, Kentucky.

In the tough economic climate, older adults are raising their voices in support of children and pre-k. In spite of bipartisan support, pre-k spending per child in Kentucky remains below the national average. Only 43 percent of Kentucky's three- and four-year-olds attend pre-k or nursery to school.

Pre-k assists families and communities now and gives long-term savings for taxpayers in the future. Generations United's Seniors4Kids invited legislators, key officials, and members of the media to hear why they think voluntary, quality preschool should be available for all Kentucky's children. Captains4Kids (adults age 50+ from the Seniors4Kids initiative) discussed why they valued pre-k.

"It is really only enlightened self-interest to ensure that young children get a good start in life so that they can become self-reliant, productive citizens, said Pat Murrell, Louisville Lead Captain4Kids.

"Investing in universal, high-quality pre-kindergarten for children benefits all generations," said Donna Butts, Executive Director of Generations United. "Children who enroll in pre-k have better earnings and employment rates which contribute to a sound economy."

Generations United's Seniors4Kids (www.seniors4kids.org) is a civic engagement initiative that highlights the role older adults can play in support of issues that directly benefit children and youth. Currently, adults age 50+ are creating statewide networks of volunteers that work to increase access to, and improve the quality of, pre-kindergarten.

The Seniors4Kids initiative works in partnership with the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. As Robert F. Sexton, Executive Director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence said, "Making quality pre-k available for all Kentucky children is an important next step in Kentucky's quest to prepare students for success in school and beyond and we are pleased to be working with Generations United's Seniors4Kids to make this happen."

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.