

NEWS RELEASE 1-8-18

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION ADVOCATES MEET WITH GALLAGHER**

Members of Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education (FCA4PE) met with Congressman Mike Gallagher on Thursday, January 4, for more than an hour to discuss how he can support the children in our public schools.

Upcoming legislation will directly impact the children in Congressional District 8 in many ways. FCA4PE members asked that Rep. Gallagher make our children his priority as he considers upcoming bills. Most of these children attend our great public schools. Some of these children have special needs or disabilities. And, some of them, or their parents, are undocumented. But they are all now his responsibility.

As Congress reconvenes, [FCA4PE asks Rep. Gallagher](#) to do right by ALL the children by voting to:

- 1. Support full funding for public schools**, a cornerstone of our democracy. Approximately 6-7% of public school funding comes from the federal government. Increased support is needed for Title IX (gender equality) and Title II (professional development). Support for after-school programs, mental health, career and technical education, arts and physical education, science and engineering, anti-bullying, and class size reduction would all be severely cut or eliminated under the current budget proposal.
- 2. Increase or maintain current Medicaid funding levels.** Cuts to Medicaid will affect funding for mandatory services for students with special needs. Medicaid funds are currently used for audiology services, speech therapy, physical therapy, nursing assistance or other medical equipment or services. Medicaid funds also can be used to pay for nurses, psychologists and guidance counselors.
- 3. Promote and support programs for child well-being and readiness.** Several key, evidence-based programs, such as CHIP, MIECHV, and child nutrition programs need to be reauthorized. In addition, we call on Rep. Gallagher to help use our tax dollars wisely by investing in quality early childhood experiences by supporting either the PACE Act or the Child Care for Working Families Act and increasing funding for Child Care Development Block Grants that support child care quality improvement initiatives.
- 4. Support the Dream Act with a path to citizenship.** Undocumented children in the Fox Valley, that were brought here as children, should not be punished for the actions of their parents. They did nothing wrong. They are our children and deserve a future as full citizens in the only country they know and love.

FCA4PE thanks Congressman Gallagher for his time as well as his willingness to listen and to learn.

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