

Letter Submitted to Arizona Republic 6-2-11

Child Care Zeroed Out Despite Tax Increase

The Republic's June 1st story on the "Sales Tax Increase Falling Short" detailed the budget cuts made to education and health care in spite of the voter approved measure. Those sectors are justified asking why the cuts were so deep when the voters made their wishes known resoundingly. Yet, the approved ballot language also required that a portion of the revenues be appropriated for "human services". In spite of that language, the Legislature and Governor agreed to eliminate all state funding for child care subsidies. The "could have been worse" argument certainly cannot be used for child care. The 20,000 people who work in child care and supported the sales tax increase want to know how a tax increase that specified human services resulted in the elimination of state funding for child care for low income working families.

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