NCSL Early Learning Fellows
Early Learning Collaborative Act

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Where we stood:

“SILOS and CRABS”
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• Last state in the South to have such a program:
  - "Red States" AL, LA, TN, GA, S.C, FL, OK all have such a program

• Planning long term: Jobs are changing!
  - American companies want and need employees who are critical thinkers
  - Critical thinking skills highly developed 0-5

• 2013 studies from different states prove high quality, sustained early ed. raises achievement
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- Voluntary
- 4 year olds
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• To participate, have to adhere to raised standards and high quality

• State will match 1/2 of per child funding if all requirements met.
  ▪ Investors in collaboratives will get tax breaks

• Funded at $3 million this year

FUTURE INCREASED FUNDING DEPENDS ON SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION AND IMPLEMENTATION!
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- Minimum Requirements:
  - Collaborative
  - Lead Partner
  - Research-based curriculum
  - Quality classroom of nationally accepted standards
(iv) Early learning collaboratives shall match 271 state funds on a 1:1 basis. Local matching funds may include 272 local tax dollars, federal dollars as allowed, parent tuition, 273 philanthropic contributions, or in-kind donations of facilities, 274 equipment and services required as part of the program such as 275 food service or health screenings.

- BROADLY WRITTEN!
- THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!
- BRING IN THOSE PARTNERS!
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(1) There shall be allowed as a credit against the tax
imposed by Section 27-7-5 the amount of the qualified
prekindergarten program support contributions paid to approved
providers, lead partners or collaboratives, not to exceed One
Million Dollars ($1,000,000.00), by any individual, corporation or
other entity having taxable income under the laws of this state
during calendar year 2013 or during any calendar year thereafter.

In order to qualify for a tax credit, such contributions may
support the local match requirement of approved providers, lead
partners or collaboratives as is necessary to match
state-appropriated funds, and any such providers, lead partners or
collaboratives shall be approved by the State Department of
Education.
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THE POLITICS!
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Opposition:

- From “right”: Tea Party/libertarian/anti-big government/home school

- From “left”: Childcare providers comfy with status quo/cont’d blank checks/MAEP full-funders
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Coalition of support:

- Business (MS Economic Council)
- Clergy
- Military
- Parents
  - Younger generation
- Law enforcement
- Senate Leadership
Passage:

- Press conference with Lt. Gov. and Speaker of the House (Republicans) surrounded by state-wide business leaders
- Sponsored by Chmn of Ed. and myself (Republicans)
- Secured support of House and Senate Democrats and Black Caucus

cont.
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Passage:
- Secured support for $: Lt. Gov., Chmn. Appropriations House and Senate
- Publicized the children
- Counted votes to insure $\frac{3}{5}$
- Played defense against Governor’s rumored veto
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MS Early Childhood Assn.
Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013

THANK YOU!