

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES**

Congressman Greg Landsman (OH-01)  
March 8, 2023

---

Member Day

---

Thank you, Mr. Chair and Ranking Member. I appreciate this opportunity, to all the members of this subcommittee.

I am a former teacher, my parents were teachers, I did child education advocacy most of my career. I helped pass an effort in Cincinnati called the Preschool Promise, which provides 2 years of quality preschool for three- and four-year-olds.

It has made a huge difference in terms of the number of our children that are showing up prepared, and who ultimately are reading successfully at the end of third grade. These are children that will ultimately go on to graduate and do good things.

So, I wanted to provide some testimony on the way in which I think this Congress should approach investing in education. We have to shift the way we think about it to brain development, and so that our investments don't look like they do now, which really follow the K-12 to higher Ed cycle.

The vast majority of our spending begins when 90% of brain development has occurred. Now, we invest in kids when they get to kindergarten significantly, some would argue, including myself, that we should do more. But we don't do as much in those early years when the vast majority of brain development is occurring.

My argument is to shift that, and my testimony is just that. We ought to start thinking about our investments in education the way in which brain development occurs. That would mean that we would invest significantly in prenatal care, so that every expecting mother, because a good chunk of brain development happens prenatally, that every single mother has access to quality prenatal care. That when they come home, they come home to a stable, safe house, by investing in housing stability. We have to invest in paid family leave so that connection between the parent and the child is made. That helps with brain development. That we invest in high quality childcare. That helps with brain development. And with preschool. All of that helps with brain development.

If we make that shift, where the vast majority of spending on children is happening as brain development is occurring, we will see incredible results for children and for our schools. They will show up prepared to read, to do math across the board. Our schools will get better, we will

graduate way, way more students and they will go on to do great things in college and career training and help grow our economy.

So, that is what I hope to compel us to do. To think about education differently and to invest in education as it relates to brain development and follow that trajectory. Prenatal care, childcare, housing, preschool, et cetera. And with that I yield back.

Thank you again for the opportunity.