



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Latino Policy Applauds Governor Pritzker’s New Committee Aiming to Unify Early Childhood Programs and Funding

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Chicago—October 24, 2023— Today, [Governor J.B. Pritzker announced a proposal to create a new state agency that will unify all early childhood programs and funding](#). The new agency aims to provide a more equitable, integrated, and holistic system of services for young children and families in Illinois.

President and CEO of the Latino Policy Forum, Sylvia Puente, issued the following statement:

“Illinois has made historic investments in early childhood education programs and has outlined a plan to make the state the best in the nation for raising a family. The Forum lauds the Pritzker administration for making progress towards the transformative goals established by the Equitable Early Childhood Funding Commission in 2021. We see a tremendous opportunity to reimagine a coherent and unified early childhood system that is responsive to the needs of racially, ethnically, linguistically, and culturally diverse families and children in Illinois.

“As we continue to develop a robust, high-quality early care system, we must ensure racial equity and the needs of English Learners remains elevated in implementation. With close to one-quarter of our state preschool population being designated as English Learners, a number that is growing, it is imperative they are thoughtfully considered within any systemic changes to the early childhood system. The Forum is excited about this work and looks forward to our continued partnership with the state to ensure these priorities are elevated.”

To learn more about the Latino Policy Forum’s work to improve Latino access to education and education outcomes in Illinois, visit: <https://latinopolicyforum.org/issues/education>

To learn more about today’s announcement from Governor J.B. Pritzker, visit: <https://gov.illinois.gov/news/press-release.27179.html>

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About the Latino Policy Forum

The Latino Policy Forum is the only organization in the Chicago area that facilitates the involvement of Latinos at all levels of public decision-making. The Forum conducts analysis to inform, influence and lead. Its goals are to improve education outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote just immigration policies, and engage diverse sectors of the community, with an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future. For more information, visit www.latinopolicyforum.org.