



St. Mary's, PA

## *Don't shortchange the children*

**To the editor:** Last week, the state Senate passed a budget bill for 2009-10 that slashes spending for education and a number of other programs that children and families rely on.

In response, Rep. Sam Smith, the Republican leader in the state House of Representatives, said the Senate budget bill "is securing the foundation and the roof and not really worrying about painting the walls."

It seems to me that the foundation of our state and our future is our children and the public education, pre-K, child care and nurse-home visiting programs that help them grow up to be tomorrow's citizens, leaders, workers and parents. The Senate budget bill cuts off all of those programs and in doing so has taken a sledgehammer to our foundation. Paint can wait. Our children cannot.

Respectfully,  
Terry Khoury  
DuBois