



Onorato for Governor
PO Box 23205 | Pittsburgh, PA 15222
P: 412-281-5678 F: 412-281-0909
www.voteonorato.com

Protect Our Children Committee

1. What three specific fiscal or policy strategies would you enlist within your administration to prevent child abuse and build the confidence and competence of parents?

1. Establish a Children's Ombudsperson in the child welfare system. We need to ensure that the system is working efficiently and effectively on behalf of the children it is designed to serve, and an Ombudsperson can help ensure that necessary improvements are made.

2. Expand Nurse-Family Partnerships. Parents are a child's first teacher, and research shows that the most at-risk families need assistance during pregnancy and early in a child's life. I support the proven Nurse-Family Partnership program to assist these families and improve children's ability to be successful.

3. Promote child welfare policies that work towards a safe and permanent family for all children. I will emphasize accountability, collaboration with stakeholders and the implementation of proven strategies for addressing child welfare issues, just as I have done as Allegheny County Executive.

2. How do you plan on increasing the availability of and access to high-quality voluntary home visiting services for families most at risk?

I have addressed these issues while running Pennsylvania's second-largest county, and I am committed to high-quality human service programs and fully understand their importance in developing a successful citizenry. Pennsylvania has a number of visitation programs, and I will ensure that they are coordinated and targeted. Specifically, I will emphasize the importance of directing our resources to the most at-risk families, maximizing the availability of visitation services and tailoring the services delivered to the most pressing needs for the individual and community.

3. Will you establish and adequately fund a state-level independent Child Protection Ombudsperson?

Yes, I call for this in my policy paper and it is an important issue.