

IBM Project Debater - We Should Subsidize Preschool video transcript

So, now we move on to round two, rebuttals. And, again, each side will have four minutes to respond to the opponent's arguments. First, with her rebuttal, Project Debater, arguing for the resolution: we should subsidize preschool.

Thank you, again. For starters, I sometimes listen to opponents and wonder: what do they want? Would they prefer poor people on their doorsteps begging for money? Would they live well with poor people, without heating and running water?

Giving opportunities to the less fortunate should be a moral obligation of any human being, and it is a key role for the state. To be clear, we should find the funding for preschools and not rely on luck or market forces. This issue is too important to not have a safety net.

Next, I think that Harish Natarajan raised the following issue: there are more important things than preschools to spend money on. The state budget is a big one, and there is room in it to subsidize preschools and invest in other fields. Therefore, the idea that there are more important things to spend on is irrelevant because the different subsidies are not mutually exclusive.

I believe the following example from a related field will explain what I'm trying to say about subsidy policies. Research shows that childcare subsidies to low-income parents enable those parents to enter and remain in the workforce. To be clear, my intention is not to leave a suitcase full of money for everyone to grab at will. We are talking about a limited, targeted and helpful mechanism.