

2017 Legislative Priorities

Children's Campaign Fund encourages members of the Washington state legislature to work to ensure that the health and well-being of children is our state's top priority.

We ask that each of our Champions for Children work to safeguard essential state services that support the children and youth of Washington state. This will be a challenging year with far-reaching implications for our state's youngest residents. We are in a time when there are times, multiple priorities and great demands on the state budget. Visionary leadership and integrity are needed to assure we do not undermine the needs of children and youth, especially those who are most vulnerable, through state safety net programs cuts.

CCF is a dedicated board of directors who advocate for legislation that protects and promotes the whole child. We are a resource for families, community allies, and voters who care about how Washington will improve the health, safety, welfare, and education of every child.

Pass a State Budget that Supports the Whole Child

We cannot fund K-12 education through cuts to other essential state services, such as services for families experiencing homelessness, early learning, health and mental health care, etc. K-12 education is crucial, however, it is only one piece of the puzzle in ensuring successful educational and life outcomes.

Secure Revenue to Meet the Range of Need

To meet state demand, sustainable revenue is critical. There are many options on the table to consider given the nature of our state's tax system. We need to shift the discussion to include sustainable revenue streams and closing ineffective tax loopholes that will help our state thrive for many generations to come.

Support Families with Paid Sick and Family Leave

Paid sick days are a matter of economic security for our children and families. Four in 10 private-sector workers—and 80 percent of low-wage workers cannot earn a single paid sick day. This means parents have to choose between going to work sick or staying at home and not get paid or—worse get fired. Supporting Washingtonians to stay healthy is vital to our economy, our workforce, and our children and families.



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Create a New Children's Department that is Effective and Innovative

In order to create seamless avenues to support families and youth, the Legislature should strongly consider the Blue Ribbon Commission's proposal to create a new Department of Children, Youth, and Families. The new department should not be business as usual with siloed administration and bureaucratic red tape. It should operate through a lens of creativity and accountability to those it serves, particularly for underserved youth as well as children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, work with OSPI and school districts.

Even as Washington is known for world-class companies, top-ranking higher education, and breathtaking natural beauty, we must strive and do better to be a state that works for social justice for all of our children and families. It is critical that we apply a racial equity lens to this work. True opportunity necessitates that every child has access to social benefits and opportunity for achievement regardless of their zip code, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or family income.

