



**CHILDREN'S**  
campaign fund

# **Champions for Children, Youth, and Families Awards**

**CELEBRATING POLICY WINS & THE CHAMPIONS  
WHOSE LEADERSHIP HELPED MAKE THEM POSSIBLE!**



## **WITH GRATITUDE:**

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### ***SPECIAL THANKS:***

**CCF's Fundraising & Communications Committee**

# THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING WITH US!

To the CCF community:

That's a wrap on the 2021 legislative session! At a time of profound urgency, our leaders came together to discuss, debate, and pass transformative legislation with groundbreaking investments for children, youth, and families. We want to thank the 70+ CCF-endorsed leaders who fought for Washington's kids in each committee hearing and vote they took, and look forward to sharing updates on our policy wins.

For over 30 years, we've been dedicated to electing champions for kids as a statewide, non-partisan PAC, yet this year marked a major turning point. With increased staff capacity -- including hiring our very first Executive Director -- and a renewed commitment to holding our leaders accountable to their campaign promises, CCF had a bigger presence this session than ever before. We were able to strategically participate in advocacy coalitions, and leverage our relationships with endorsed legislators to urge passage of critically important legislation.

As summer approaches and vaccines continue to roll out, it's a relief to feel like there's a light at the end of the tunnel -- yet we can't simply return to how things used to be. The pandemic further highlighted just how many systemic inequities and disparities have existed and disproportionately impacted BIPOC children, youth, and families for far too long. Although our leaders passed broad and meaningful legislation, there is still much work to do to ensure each child, young person, and family can thrive.

Across CCF's priority areas, the historic wins this session remind us how critical it is to elect leaders who advocate for our kids. With your continued support, we can gear up for 2022 to elect and retain champions for children, youth, and families. I invite you to deepen your partnership at this critical moment by donating generously, signing up to volunteer, or letting us know if there's another way you'd like to show your support. You can reach me directly anytime at [jess@childrenscampaignfund.org](mailto:jess@childrenscampaignfund.org) or learn more by visiting [childrenscampaignfund.org](http://childrenscampaignfund.org).

On behalf of CCF's board and staff, thank you for your inspiring commitment and investment in our mission!

In community,



Jess Agi, MPA, CAPM (she/her)  
Executive Director  
Children's Campaign Fund

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## **2021 Champion of the Year**

### **Rep. My-Linh Thai (LD-41)**

*In recognition of a transformative commitment to children, youth, and families across our priorities.*



Rep. Thai championed powerful legislation across CCF's priority bills this session, with a primary focus on ensuring the basic needs of children, youth, and families are met through holistic investments in health, housing, and safety. Most outstanding was Rep. Thai's leadership and prime sponsorship of The Working Families Tax Credit -- garnering sweeping bipartisan support. This significant legislation will positively and quickly impact children and families across the state by providing a direct recovery rebate when most needed.

## **2021 Rising Star of the Year**

### **Sen. T'wina Nobles (LD-28)**

*In recognition of an impactful first term advocating for children, youth, and families.*



Sen. Nobles has had a historic first year as a Senator. The first bill she passed as a senator was SB 5184 - a bill that establishes a building point of contact in all K-12 public schools for students in foster care. Having experienced foster care as a youth, Sen. Nobles has been a powerful advocate for young people in the child welfare system, and provided an impactful voice for Fair Start for Kids on what it means to have accessible and affordable childcare.

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## **2021 Champions for Early Learning & Childcare**

**Rep. Tana Senn (LD-41)**



**Sen. Claire Wilson (LD-30)**



The Fair Start for Kids Act is a historic investment in the expansion of affordable, accessible, and quality early learning and childcare options across Washington state. Rep. Senn and Sen. Wilson worked collaboratively and tirelessly on companion bills during the interim and all session, ultimately taking this milestone legislation to the finish line with SB 5237.

As Chair of the Children, Youth & Families Committee in the House, Rep. Senn's leadership assured that many game-changing bills advanced this year. In addition to her focus on early learning and childcare -- including her dedication to progressive revenue that would fund these investments -- she also sponsored and co-sponsored multiple priority bills across CCF's issue areas.

In addition to prime sponsoring Fair Start for Kids, Sen. Wilson was the prime sponsor of every Senate early learning and childcare bill we prioritized and co-sponsored many of CCF's priority bills across our other key issues as well. We are grateful for the chance to celebrate both of these powerhouse leaders!

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## **2021 Champion for Basic Needs**

**Rep. Kirsten Harris-Talley (LD-37)**



Rep. Harris-Talley has made an enormous impact during her first year in the legislature. As Vice Chair of the Children, Youth & Families Committee, she advocated for many of CCF's key priorities -- including co-sponsoring nearly all of our housing, health, and safety bills this session. Rep. Harris-Talley rises to the top as a champion for holistic investments in the basic needs of families across our state.

## **2021 Champion for Child Welfare**

**Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self (LD-21)**

In her role as an elementary school counselor, Rep. Ortiz-Self recognizes that children and youth are best served when they are cared for by their loved ones and their communities. Rep. Ortiz-Self prime sponsored HB 1227, known as the Keeping Families Together Act, as well as HB 1194 which aims to strengthen quality parent-child visitation while in the child welfare system. Both bills garnered strong bipartisan support. Rep. Ortiz-Self is an outstanding advocate for children, youth, and families impacted by the child welfare system.



## **2021 Champion for Juvenile Justice Reform**

**Rep. Jesse Johnson (LD-30)**



As Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Rep. Johnson stands out as a champion for equity and accountability in law enforcement and criminal legal systems. He is the prime sponsor of one of CCF's priority juvenile justice reform bills this session, HB 1140. As passed, it protects the constitutional rights of young people and ensures they have access to an attorney when in contact with law enforcement.

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

# CCF'S PRIORITIES

Responding to the immediate needs of the pandemic and beyond, we urge lawmakers to...

- Center the needs of kids and families: keep the voices and lived experiences of children, youth and families across Washington state, especially those from communities of color and other marginalized communities, centered in any proposed legislation.
- Advance racial equity: in meaningful alignment with the demands of BIPOC communities and the Governor's proposed budget priorities, prioritize racial equity in any pandemic-relief action in recognition of the disproportionate impact Covid-19 has had on communities of color while simultaneously advocating for policies that advance racial justice, address the root causes of inequities, and work to dismantle oppressive structures.
- Keep their fiscal commitments: in response to the economic impact of the pandemic, work collaboratively with legislators on a bipartisan basis to supplement potential federal funding to maintain critical investments for children, youth, and families; do not balance the budget on the backs of Washington's kids.

Across our areas of focus, our 2021 legislative priorities are:

- **BASIC NEEDS:** Ensure basic needs are met through holistic investments in the health, housing, nutrition, safety, and well-being of children, youth, and families.
- **EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE:** Invest in affordable, accessible, and quality childcare and early learning programs.
- **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:** Prioritize the preservation of funding streams to support youth development programs that provide holistic resources, including youth workforce development programs, and focus on young people's recovery during the pandemic.
- **SPECIAL NEEDS:** Protect existing services and provide broad, accessible programs for children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and other special needs.
- **CHILD WELFARE:** Invest in equitable and comprehensive services to support children, youth, and families impacted by the child welfare and foster care systems while working to accelerate alternatives to removing children from their family home through preventative whole family supports.
- **JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM:** Support transformation of juvenile justice system to prioritize community-based interventions, diversion, restorative alternatives, and wraparound supports to help prevent children and youth involvement in juvenile justice systems.

View our bill tracker and past priorities at:  
[childrenscampaignfund.org/priorities](https://childrenscampaignfund.org/priorities)



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# ABOUT CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN FUND

## Our Team

### **Staff:**

Executive Director: Jess Agi  
PAC Manager: Hikma Sherka

### **Board of Directors:**

Co-Chair: Rep. Ruth Kagi (ret.)  
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Lyn Idahosa  
Yali Lincroft  
Sam Méndez  
Liz Miller  
Ryan Murphy  
Kelly Stockman-McKee  
Amanda Wilson

## Mission

We are dedicated to electing state leaders who will champion the health, well-being, safety, and learning and development of the children and youth of Washington State, especially those who are under-resourced and have been historically marginalized. We provide a non-partisan, collective voice for the people of Washington to elect state leaders who will prioritize children and their families, represent the communities they serve, and expect to be held accountable.

## Vision

Washington State prioritizes investments in a thriving present and future for every child and their family, particularly those impacted by racism and poverty. All state leaders recognize that providing for the health, well-being, safety, and learning and development of our children is not optional – it is vital.

## Values

- Legislative outcomes through nonpartisanship
- Commitment to advancing racial equity
- Informed by the voices of youth and families

**LEARN MORE & TAKE ACTION:**  
[childrenscampaignfund.org](https://childrenscampaignfund.org)  
[info@childrenscampaignfund.org](mailto:info@childrenscampaignfund.org)

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