



2013 Legislative Agenda

Fight Childhood Hunger

In Washington, we believe all children should have the food they need to thrive. But last summer, a 50 percent cut to State Food Assistance put children in immigrant families at greater risk of hunger. Hungry children can't learn. **Restore State Food Assistance.**

Invest in Early Learning

Every child needs a strong start in life. Birth to age 5 is a crucial time for children to build the mental framework that allows them to succeed in school and beyond. But gaps in our system mean some kids never have that valuable opportunity. **Expand access to the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, including a targeted focus on infants and toddlers.**

Strengthen Apple Health for Kids

All children should have the chance to grow up healthy. Yet more than 97,000 of our state's children lack health coverage. Apple Health for Kids allows thousands of Washington's children to get the health care they need to succeed in school. **Restore affordable monthly premiums and support efforts that connect uninsured kids to coverage and care.**

Expand Access to Dental Care

Washingtonians don't stand by when our children are hurting. Today, too many kids suffer from unnecessary pain and setbacks in school caused by lack of dental care. Mid-level dental providers are an evidence-based solution allowing dentists to expand access to the quality care that builds strong families. **Update outdated laws to free dentists to hire mid-level dental providers.**

Stop Cuts and Raise Revenue

State budget cuts have hurt all children, but cuts have been especially devastating to children of color and children in low-income families. Washington needs courageous lawmakers to adopt common-sense revenue solutions that build a healthy future. **Stop cuts that widen the opportunity gap. Raise revenue.**