



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

2017 Legislative Review

EVERY CHILD in our state should have the opportunity to thrive: a quality education supported by parents and community from cradle to career; enough healthy food to eat each day; and access to comprehensive, affordable health care that optimizes their well-being.

In the 2017 legislative session, Children's Alliance led thousands of members from all across Washington to advocate for policy solutions that close gaps in racial equity and open up brighter futures for Washington's children. In the midst of damaging words and policies from the federal government, parents, and community-based leaders continued to push for smarter responses at the state level.

IN RESPONSE, lawmakers invested in early learning, boosting access to quality preschool that closes the educational opportunity gap. The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program was expanded by 1,800

kids. Lawmakers passed Senate Bill 5079, creating a broad path toward better dental care in Indian Country by authorizing dental therapists on tribal lands. They passed Senate Bill 5975, creating paid family and

medical leave that helps working parents stay home to take care of themselves or a new member of the household. Finally, lawmakers created a historic opportunity to realign state services and improve child outcomes by creating a new Department of Children, Youth, and

Families, a cabinet-level authority that reports directly to the governor.

EVERY ACTION we take together yields progress toward our goals. With parents, service providers and community leaders from all across the state, Children's Alliance will continue to work to ensure every child can reach their vast potential.



Governor Jay Inslee signs House Bill 1661, creating a cabinet-level Department of Children, Youth and Families that combines child-serving agencies for better outcomes for kids. Children's Alliance worked to place racial equity among the department's key priorities, convening community-based advocates to help shape the form, function and practices of the department. HB 1661 passed the House and Senate with strong bipartisan support.

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS FOR THEIR HELP IN THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition · Child Welfare Advocacy Coalition · Cradle Through College Coalition · Early Learning Action Alliance · Equity in Education Coalition · Health Coalition for Children and Youth · Healthy Washington Coalition · Home Visiting Coalition · Racial Equity Team · Washington Dental Access Campaign · Family Support Advocates

We are advocates for kids

We ensure that laws, policies and programs work for kids, and we hold our leaders accountable until they secure the resources required to make all children safe and healthy.

JOIN: Sign up today to become a member: <http://bit.ly/Join4kids>.

GIVE: Put your money to work protecting kids: www.childrensalliance.org.

LEARN: Attend Advocacy Camp, our three-day leadership training for racial equity and policy change, which starts Tuesday, October 10, 2017. Contact Community Engagement Manager Emijah Smith at (206) 324-0340 ext. 25 or by e-mail at emijah@childrensalliance.org for more information.



Left: Lilia L. Chávez, 2, participated in Have a Heart for Kids Day Friday, January 27, 2017, as a Tooth Fairy for Dental Therapy. She and dozens of kids and parents called on lawmakers to authorize dental therapists to connect more communities to affordable oral health care.

Above right: Have a Heart for Kids Day participants paint signs to carry to the capitol. Children's Alliance members advocated for quality early learning; in response, lawmakers expanded access to the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program.

Right: Children's Alliance members visited the capitol on April 16 to speak with legislators about access to health care for Washington families from the Pacific Islands.



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718 Sixth Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98104

(206) 324-0340 or (800) 854-KIDS

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