



**CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**

*A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families*

## **Statement of Support: Initiative 940**

Children's Alliance proudly supports Initiative 940. It's good for kids and public safety.

We know that law enforcement officers have tremendous influence over the lives of Washington's kids. Our children, families and communities are safer when police can serve the public with the highest degree of professionalism and accountability. Yet here in Washington and across the nation, police incidents of deadly force have visited trauma and heartbreak on children from all walks of life—especially children of color.

The loss of a loved one poses clear hazards to a child's lifelong health and well-being. Black, Latino, and Native American communities are disproportionately policed and impacted by deadly force. As a result, children of color are coping with the fear of an adverse encounter with a police officer.

We all are safer when we can be confident in the skills and judgment of our public servants. Initiative 940 will help give police the tools they need to contribute to strong communities.

What Initiative 940 does:

- Implements a good-faith standard for law enforcement use of deadly force, increasing police accountability;
- Requires training in mental health response, first aid and de-escalation;
- Ensures that Washington's diverse communities can influence police training;
- Provides for completely independent investigations.

I-940 is a grassroots campaign led by people of color and families impacted by police violence with the goal of making positive changes in how police interact in our communities. The De-Escalate Washington campaign is in the last five weeks of gathering signatures for this statewide initiative. We are partnering in this work, and ask that you participate by signing a petition, gathering signatures, or making a financial contribution.

For more information, go to <http://www.deescalatewa.org> or <http://www.facebook.com/deescalatewashington>.