



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families



STROLLING THUNDER
Washington

MEDIA ADVISORY: Monday., March 11, 2019

FAMILIES WILL CALL ON LAWMAKERS TO *THINK BABIES*™ AT STROLLING THUNDER WASHINGTON

WHAT: Parents, children and community leaders will gather for Strolling Thunder, a march and rally to urge the legislature to advance policies and investments for babies and their parents.

WHEN: Thursday, March 14, 2019, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

WHO: Parents, babies, child care providers and community leaders from across the state.

WHERE: Washington State Capitol, Tivoli Fountain, 103 Capitol Way S, Olympia, WA 98501.

AUDIO/VISUAL OPPORTUNITIES:

MARCH: 11:10–11:30 a.m., from Tivoli Fountain to capitol steps. Babies, parents and early-childhood educators will decorate their bodies with airbrushed tattoos, brandish balloon animals and festoon their strollers with colorful signs calling on the legislature to *Think Babies and Act!*

RALLY: 11:30 a.m. – noon, capitol steps, with parents, babies, child care providers, early learning advocates, legislators and a DJ spinning lively, baby-friendly music. Parents and early learning advocates will raise their voices in support of quality care and enriching opportunities for Washington's youngest generation.

WHY: For healthy development, it's imperative for infants, toddlers and preschool-age children to have high-quality early opportunities. Yet less than 2 percent of the state budget is allocated to child care, preschool, and other early learning services. Child care costs more than college, putting many young families in financial distress. And this high cost burden rests heavier on families of color who have experienced barriers to good jobs and other forms of opportunity.

State lawmakers can help. At Strolling Thunder, parents, children and community leaders will call on them to:

- Prioritize the Working Connections Child Care rate increase in the state budget, especially for infants and toddlers;
- Pass [House Bill 1351 / Senate Bill 5437](#), expanding the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program to infants and toddlers;
- Support affordable child care access by passing House Bill 1344, the [Washington Child Care Access Now Act](#);
- Prioritize investments in child care providers who work to increase families' access to high-quality care.

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