

Unfinished Business

Join us!

**Turn to the
back cover.**

**Advocacy for
kids in the
2014 Legislature**



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Opportunity for Washington's kids is still a work in progress.

Here's how state lawmakers responded to our priorities in 2014.

STATE FOOD ASSISTANCE.

One in four children in Washington live in households where someone's going hungry. Lawmakers chose not to advance equity for immigrant families by restoring Washington's smart answer to childhood hunger, State Food Assistance.

EARLY START. A growing number of lawmakers are committed to closing the educational opportunity gap before the school years begin. The Early Start Act would have dramatically expanded access to high-quality early learning.

DENTAL CARE. Children of color and children in low-income households are suffering for lack of access to timely, preventive oral health care. Lawmakers failed to adopt an innovative model for creating more affordable oral health care, via a mid-level dental provider.

REVENUE. Lawmakers failed to pass common-sense revenue solutions that give families the chance to build our children's future.

2014 Legislative Agenda

Fight Childhood Hunger

Basic Food is our number-one defense against childhood hunger. Budget cuts have put healthy meals beyond the reach of many immigrant families. All children should have access to nutritious meals. **restore State Food Assistance**

IN PROGRESS

Strengthen Early Learning

The years from birth to age 5 are a crucial time for children to learn cognitive and other skills that help them succeed in school. Large gaps in our system mean many children of color and children in low-income families never have that opportunity. **Advance early learning policies and investments that close the opportunity gap.**

IN PROGRESS

Expand Access to Oral Health Care

Washingtonians don't stand by when our children are suffering. Today, too many kids in low-income households and children of color suffer from unnecessary pain caused by lack of oral health care. **Expand access to a proven, community-based solution for dental care. Authorize evidence-based mid-level dental providers to help build a healthy future.**

IN PROGRESS

Raise Revenue

State budget cuts have hurt all children, but they've been devastating to children of color and children in low-income families. **Washington needs common-sense revenue solutions to raise revenue.**

IN PROGRESS

We are **proud** to call Washington home.

We believe that:

From the very start, all kids deserve quality learning experiences; health care; and nutritious, affordable food.

But not every child can get their hands on these building blocks of success. To build a strong future for all, the laws and budgets of our state ought to reflect our values.

When all of us speak up, we can make Washington work for kids.

In the 2014 session, we:



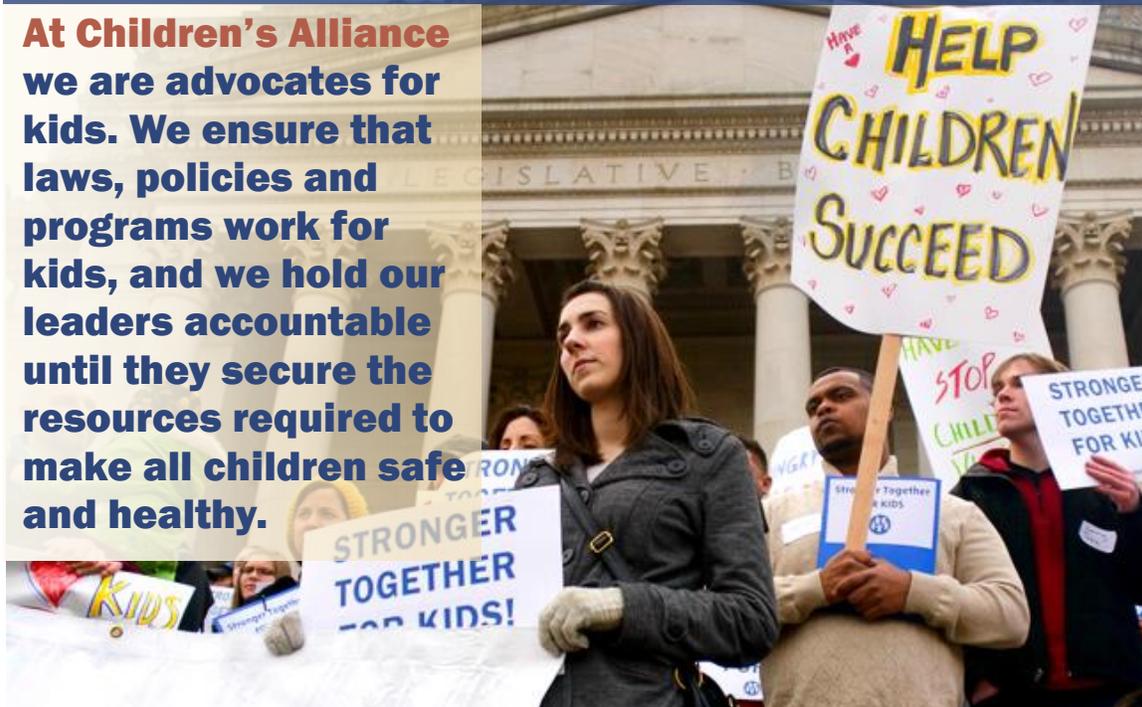
- **PARTNERED** with immigrant families to fight for equal access to food assistance;
- **SPOKE UP** for equity in early learning opportunities for kids aged birth to 5;
- **CHAMPIONED** a workforce solution to our oral health care crisis;
- **ENSURED** that health reform builds healthy kids;
- **PUSHED** for more revenue to protect kids and families;
- **HELPED** hundreds of first-time visitors realize their power to lobby their elected representatives and make a difference in Olympia.

We know what works to change kids' lives.

Advocacy works!

And it works best when we work together.

At Children's Alliance 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.



WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE 2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition · Child Welfare Advocacy Coalition · DREAM Team · Early Learning Action Alliance · Equity in Education Coalition · Health Coalition for Children and Youth · Healthy Washington Coalition · Home Visiting Coalition · Our Economic Future Coalition · Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee · Racial Equity Team · Washington DREAM Act Coalition · Dental Access Campaign · Welfare Advocates Group.

Get involved

JOIN: Sign up today to become a member of the Children's Alliance: <http://bit.ly/CAjoin>.

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

LEARN the tools of advocacy with us! For more information, go to www.childrensalliance.org/news-events. Or e-mail emijah@childrensalliance.org to organize an advocacy training in your own community.



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families

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Together, we can:

- **CREATE** a workforce solution to our oral health care crisis;
- **MAKE** greater public investments in the critical first five years of life;
- **CALL** for practical investments that fight childhood hunger;
- **CLOSE** the racial opportunity gap.