



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

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Rep. Joe McDermott Honored by Children's Alliance**

### *Legislative support key to eliminating "co-pay" for reduced-price breakfast*

**April 13, 2006 (Seattle)** – The Children's Alliance is honoring Representative Joe McDermott for his outstanding support of an appropriation that will make school breakfast available to approximately 15,000 more children statewide.

**The "Legislative Champion" award will be presented:**

**Tuesday, April 18, 2006, 8:30 a.m.**

**High Point Elementary School**

**6760 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98126**

Representative McDermott was the champion in the House of Representatives of the \$2 million increase in the supplemental budget for school breakfast and summer food programs statewide. Rep. McDermott's leadership included recruitment of Senate champions as well as continuous and effective lobbying of his House Appropriations Committee colleagues. Washington is the first state in the country to eliminate the co-pay for reduced-price school breakfasts statewide.

"For the second year in a row, Rep. McDermott stepped forward to support increased access to nutritious breakfasts in Washington's schools. With the stakes so high for student success, Rep. McDermott understands that breakfast is a simple tool to improve school readiness. Because of his leadership, thousands more students will kick off their school day with a free breakfast, getting the nutrition they need to start their brains."

Rep. McDermott reports that last year's initiatives, estimated to make breakfast available to 5,700 more students, have actually brought school breakfast to 8,000 more children so far.

"I see the elimination of the co-pay for children who qualified for reduced price breakfasts to be great continuation of our previous work," McDermott said. "With breakfast, these students get into the classrooms ready to learn and be productive for the day."

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*For more than twenty years, the Children's Alliance has advocated for children, youth and families in Washington. The Alliance has 128 organizational members, and nearly 7,000 individual members.*

*For a [list of member organizations](#) and to learn more about the Children's Alliance, go to: [www.childrensalliance.org](http://www.childrensalliance.org)*