



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families

Legislative Agenda

2012 Session

PROTECT:

- **Apple Health for Kids**
- **State Food Assistance**

REJECT:

Further budget cuts that disproportionately affect low-income families and children of color

INNOVATE:

- **Raise new revenue**
- **Improve health with a new dental practitioner**
- **Close the opportunity gap with early learning**

Protect Apple Health for Kids

Every child deserves a chance to be healthy. Apple Health for Kids is a cost-effective, popular and successful health coverage program that helps 4 out of 10 children in our state get the care they need to be successful in the classroom and in life.

Protect State Food Assistance

Children need good food to learn, grow and thrive. State Food Assistance ensures that thousands of lawfully residing immigrant families who don't qualify for food stamps have enough to eat, helping prevent hunger for more than 12,000 children.

Raise Revenue to Protect our Future

Washington has been a leader in securing opportunities for children because we've made smart investments in public programs like health care, anti-hunger assistance, education and other public structures. Sustaining that legacy depends on new revenue.

Improve Health with a Licensed Dental Practitioner

Too many children, seniors, people with disabilities and people of color can't get the oral health care they need, resulting in thousands of visits to the emergency room every year. An addition to the dental workforce will bring routine and preventive oral health care to underserved communities, avoiding more costly dental care.

Close the Opportunity Gap: Prioritize Early Learning

When young children have access to high quality early learning programs, everyone benefits. Adopt the bipartisan recommendations of the Quality Education Council: Strengthen early learning programs from birth to age 5 to close the opportunity gap and prepare more children to get the most out of K-12.