



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families

Champions for Children

May 2018

Champions for Children are state lawmakers recognized by the Children's Alliance for their outstanding service on behalf of children. Each of the following legislators provided significant leadership during the 2018 legislative session in advancing state policies or investments to improve the well-being of children in Washington. These lawmakers distinguished themselves by joining with the Children's Alliance to make children a priority.

This year, we recognize four lawmakers whose leadership was critical in passing [Senate Bill 5683](#), which improves family and community health by offering affordable coverage and care to Washingtonians from three Pacific Island nations. Children's Alliance was honored to work with allies, community members, and advocates across the state to realize this achievement.



Senator Rebecca Saldaña (D-Seattle) led the Senate Members of Color Caucus and the Senate at large to ensure coverage for out-of-pocket costs in Senate Bill 5683.



Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos (D-Seattle), first alerted her fellow legislators to the need for Senate Bill 5683 and led her colleagues in a multi-year effort to secure its passage.



Senator Andy Billig (D-Spokane) amended the legislation to include culturally and linguistically accessible outreach to affected communities and travel reimbursement for members of the Advisory Board.



Representative Marcus Riccelli (D-Spokane) led the House Democratic Caucus to ensure that the final bill helped families pay for health care by covering out-of-pocket costs.