



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families

Champions for Children

August 2012

Twelve outstanding leaders for Washington's kids

Each of the state legislators listed here provided significant leadership during the 2012 legislative session in preserving, protecting, or advancing state policies or investments that improve the well-being of children in Washington. The Champion for Children award is the highest honor that the Children's Alliance can give to a state legislator.



Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown (3rd) Senator Brown's work on behalf of Spokane residents and all Washingtonians was instrumental in protecting hungry children from further cuts to State Food Assistance. Sen. Brown also helped restore child care assistance to thousands of working families.



Speaker Frank Chopp (43rd) Speaker Chopp championed the effort to increase enrollment assistance funds for Apple Health for Kids, to make sure health coverage protects the families that need it. Speaker Chopp also ensured no further cuts to State Food Assistance.



Senator Nick Harper (38th) Sen. Harper worked hard to include a commitment to quality programs for infants and toddlers in the budget. His dedication ensured that the 2012 legislative session gave us a strong foundation for the future of early learning.



Senator Steve Hobbs (44th) Sen. Hobbs brought his time, energy, and influence to protect Apple Health for Kids for all eligible children. He was a strong advocate to include funding in the budget that will help connect more children of color with health coverage.



Representative Ross Hunter (48th) Hunter has become a strong voice for the importance of protecting health care for all kids. Thanks to his leadership, the 2012-2013 budget redoubles our state's efforts to connect uninsured children with Apple Health for Kids' comprehensive, affordable coverage.



Representative Ruth Kagi (32nd) Rep. Kagi's consistent support of early learning has helped bring together children's advocates to improve early learning programs across the state. She led her caucus in including a commitment to programs for infants and toddlers in the final budget, which advances early learning for all kids.



Senator Steve Litzow (41st) Sen. Litzow worked across the aisle to include a budget commitment to infants and toddlers that will help advance high-quality early learning programs across the state.



Representative Luis Moscoso (1st) As a freshman legislator, Rep. Moscoso became a leader for racial equity and was a consistent voice in his caucus and to protect State Food Assistance and Apple Health for Kids from cuts that would disproportionately affect children of color.



Senator Ed Murray (43rd) When a slim majority of senators sought to eliminate State Food Assistance, Sen. Murray passionately defended those unfairly singled out by this cut. In addition, Senator Murray worked consistently to protect Apple Health for Kids.



Senator Debbie Regala (27th) Sen. Regala worked to educate her caucus and her constituents about the importance of State Food Assistance to children and families. Sen. Regala also helped prevent further cuts to programs for low-income families.



Representative Larry Seaquist (26th) By uniting his colleagues in support of Apple Health for Kids, Rep. Seaquist kept children's health at the center of budget discussions during the course of the 2012 legislative session.



Representative Pat Sullivan (47th) Rep. Sullivan has committed himself to protecting State Food Assistance from further cuts. Rep. Sullivan was also a strong proponent of early learning, cementing a commitment to infants and toddlers in future early learning legislation.

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