



## **CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**

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

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Children's Alliance comments on Braam lawsuit court action today**

**January 16, 2008 (Seattle)** -- Attorneys for the children in the Braam v. State of Washington foster care lawsuit announced today that they have filed a “motion of enforcement” with the court. This motion addresses improvements that were mandated in the lawsuit settlement that have not been fulfilled. The motion particularly notes the need for 30-day visits by state workers, reduction of state worker caseloads, increased sibling visitations and comprehensive Child Health and Education Track (CHET) screens.

Paola Maranan, executive director of the Children's Alliance had the following statement to make about the motion:

“The Children's Alliance has consistently advocated for improvements to and greater investments in the state's foster care system to ensure that these children and youth are getting everything they need to lead happy and successful lives. We are disappointed in the lack of progress in fixing the state's foster care system. We would have preferred it if the terms of the settlement agreement were fulfilled without going back to court for enforcement, but that hasn't happened. If further legal action will push the state to do what it takes—to make the investments required—to fix our foster care system, we fully support it. We remain hopeful that lawmakers will add money in this legislative session to move towards meeting the settlement goals by supporting critical support programs for children in foster care. In the end, what we care about most is doing right by these kids in the state's care.”

Many of the items mentioned in the motion are legislative priorities for the Children's Alliance. To read the Children's Alliance foster care policy paper, go to:  
<http://www.childrensalliance.org/whatwedo/Keep%20Our%20Promises%20to%20Foster%20Kids.cfm>

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*For twenty-five years, the Children's Alliance has advocated for children, youth and families in Washington. The Alliance has 120 organizational members, and more than 7,500 individual members statewide.*

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