



**Governor Inslee's Executive Order re: State Blue Ribbon Commission on the  
Delivery of Services to Children and Families**

**Statement from Children's Alliance, Feb. 18, 2016**

Any structural change in the state of Washington's service delivery for children should be guided by what's best for kids. And, when not all kids are faring well, our attention and resources should prioritize the most vulnerable. Data about child outcomes in our state show wide disparities in economic security, educational, and health outcomes by family income and race and ethnicity.

Governor Inslee's executive order is an opportunity to examine how to ensure equity for all our kids. Too often, disparities in child outcomes are a consequence of the policies and practices of public and private institutions, from housing to finance to education and social services. Public sector child and family agencies can contribute to erasing those disparities.

We agree with Governor Inslee that organizational structure alone can't get the job done. A mission-level commitment to ensuring equitable outcomes for all kids is a necessary ingredient to success for kids. Also, any restructuring should be mindful that child outcomes are linked to the well-being of their families and communities.

Resources matter. Underfunded services will not result in positive child outcomes. In the long run, the children of Washington need to be a top priority of state leaders in all branches of government.