



COLORADO
CHILDREN'S
CAMPAIGN

February 1, 2008

We hope you enjoy the new look of our KidsFlash update. You may read KidsFlash in its entirety by scrolling through the text of the email or go directly to the areas that interest you most by clicking on the links below.

CCC in the News:

Seeking serious state fiscal fixes

Denver Post

<http://tinyurl.com/ype95t>

Advocacy Groups Want Taxes as Part of State Discussion

Pueblo Chieftain

<http://www.chieftain.com/editorial/1200204000/12>

Study Says State Needs More Money

Denver Business Journal

<http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2007/12/17/daily18.html>

Upcoming Events:

The Colorado Children's Campaign is a lead organization in the 2010 All Kids Covered Initiative. The goal of the *2010 Initiative* is that **by the year 2010, all children in Colorado will have coverage through insurance or public programs that ensures access to a medical home providing appropriate and affordable health services.**

Colorado has a strong track record of success on covering uninsured children, thanks to Medicaid and the Colorado Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+), which guarantees that 380,191 Colorado children can get the checkups they need to ensure they are developing properly, have the eyeglasses they need to read a bedtime story, or the prescription medications they need to play sports without losing their breath. Colorado policymakers have propelled our state to a leadership position on this issue – but

we're not done yet.

There are still an estimated 155,000 children in Colorado still do not have health insurance coverage and are not always able to get the care they need. Now is the time for Colorado to finish the job by making certain that all children have affordable, quality, comprehensive health care by the year 2010.

Sunday Rally for Kids Coverage

On Sunday, February 10, 2008, a public rally will be held at Children's Hospital proclaiming "2010 All Kids Covered" week. Colorado faith leaders, families, providers, and constituents will be there in support of the growing movement to cover all kids in Colorado. The rally will be held at 2:15 pm in the Atrium of Children's Hospital, at 13123 East 16th Avenue; Aurora, CO 80045. Small stipends are available for those coming from out of town. Please contact Tara Trujillo, Health Initiatives Director at tara@coloradokids.org for additional information.

Publications:

Childhood Obesity in Colorado: A Growing Problem

Though Colorado remains one of the fittest states in the country, we aren't immune to the growing obesity trends that threaten the health of people across the nation, including our children. Childhood obesity has now become an epidemic that affects thousands of Colorado's kids, impacting their physical and mental health, and putting them at risk for continued health problems as they grow.

In Colorado today, 14 percent of children ages 2-14, or approximately 116,000 kids, are overweight. If current trends continue, it is estimated that by the year 2020, over three-quarters of all adults in our state will be overweight or obese. This generation of children could be the first to live shorter lives than their parents.

In the latest report released by the Children's Campaign, "Childhood Obesity in Colorado: A Growing Problem," we examine the most current data regarding the health of our children. Based on promising practices across the state and the nation, we make policy recommendations to help Colorado reverse the trend of childhood obesity.

We encourage you to take action, as advocates, leaders, teachers and parents. This is a challenge we cannot fail. You can access the report on our website at:

<http://www.coloradokids.org/includes/downloads/obesityworkingpaperfinal.pdf>

Looking Forward: Colorado's fiscal prospects after Ref C

Colorado Children's Campaign and its partners, the Bell Policy Center and the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute released the new report, Looking Forward. Our goal is to compile one reliable set of projections about future fiscal conditions as a common baseline from which to define challenges, inform public debate and guide decisions - especially those impacting Colorado's children. You can access the report on our website at:

<http://www.thebell.org/PUBS/annual/2007/LookingForward.php>

2008 Legislative Summary:

Stay tuned next week for a comprehensive list of the bills that the Children's Campaign is working on.

(Note: Unless otherwise indicated, the CCC supports all of the following pieces of legislation. In some cases the CCC is the initiator of the legislation and is allocating resources to ensure passage and signing.)

Health:

SB 08-022	Senator Sandoval Representative Ferrandino	Was amended and laid over on second reading.
Concerning Over expenditures in the Children's Basic Health Plan.		
With the governor's approval, allows expenditures of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to exceed their appropriation for the Children's Basic Health Plan.		

Education:

HB 08-1004	Representative Todd Senator Penry	Will be in House Education on 2.4.08.
Concerning the Authorization of Law Enforcement Agencies to Work Jointly with School Districts in Enforcing Compulsory School Attendance Laws.		
Allows law enforcement officers who has probable cause to believe a child is truant to take the child into temporary custody for the sole purpose of returning the child to school.		

Early Childhood:

HB 08-1049	Representative Benefield Senator Groff	Was heard for testimony and will be back in committee for action on 2.6.08.
Concerning the Extension of the Years for which a Taxpayer May Claim the Income Tax Credit for Child Care Facilities.		
Reauthorizes the current child care contribution tax credit through January 2020, allowing a taxpayer to claim a credit for monetary contributions to promote child care.		

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