



Kicking off the Legislative Session with a Victory for Kids!

Welcome back to the Colorado legislative session, children's advocates! Wednesday marked the beginning of the second session of the 67th General Assembly and with it comes much to be hopeful about regarding the future of Colorado's children. In fact, with the session only three days underway, there has already been one policy victory for kids with the passage of a key education reform bill that will improve educator effectiveness and student outcomes. By breaking with tradition and fast tracking this legislation, we believe the legislature took an important step for kids, and we look forward to working with them on additional victories in the months ahead.

There will also be many tough choices this session. Colorado policymakers are faced with severe economic challenges, including tackling a remaining \$49 million budget shortfall for fiscal year 2009-10 and a \$1.2 billion shortfall in 2010-11. Cuts will be made to valuable state programs. Fortunately, education, child health and early childhood development continue to be priorities for many Colorado lawmakers, and the Colorado Children's Campaign will be working harder than ever to protect the programs most critical to the health and well-being of Colorado kids.

Click here for a full list of the Children's Campaign's 2010 Legislative Priorities at <http://tinyurl.com/yd9vhwf>.

Early Victory in Education Reform Strengthens Colorado's Federal Grant Application

The House and Senate met this week to fast-track the passage of a teacher preparation bill (SB 36) that will be included in Colorado's Race to the Top application. This education reform legislation will help bolster our odds to receive the competitive federal grant to support education reform. Children's Campaign's Senior Policy and Education Initiatives Director, Scott Groginsky, was among those who testified before the House and Senate Education Committees on the benefits of the bill, which would establish a system to track the effectiveness of programs that prepare teachers and principals by analyzing student growth.

Click here for more on the teacher preparation bill at <http://tinyurl.com/y8ung3d>.

2010 Lunch and Learn Series

The Children's Campaign is pleased to announce that we've just released the schedule for our 4th Annual Lunch and Learn series. Colorado policymakers and partners are

invited to join the Campaign's research and policy team to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing Colorado's children and to hear updates on the most recent research, data and policy issues related to health, education and early childhood development.

Click here to see the schedule for the 2010 Lunch and Learn series at <http://tinyurl.com/yc7rx52>.

Stay tuned!

As we move into the 2010 legislative session, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our partners and supporters who collaborate with us throughout the year. We will continue to provide information about how kids' issues are faring and what you can do to get involved in the legislative session in our weekly KidsFlash updates. Please feel free to pass this along to your friends, who can sign up for these updates on our website at http://www.coloradokids.org/act_now/email_updates.html.

Together, we can create hope and opportunity in Colorado, more than one million kids at a time.

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