



KidsFlash – January 29, 2010

Tax Credit Elimination Bills Remain Priority for Lawmakers

Lawmakers met again today to debate the tax exemption/suspension bills that are part of the Governor's budget balancing package. The Children's Campaign strongly supports the passage of all of the bills as one step in a balanced approach to resolving the shortfall in our state budget and as a means to protect K-12 education, health and family support systems, affordable early care and other critical programs for Colorado kids. On Thursday, the Children's Campaign sent out an Action Alert urging you to call your state legislators to let them know that you support House Bills 1189-1200. Thanks to all of you who responded to our request for action by making your voice heard.

Click here to read Thursday's Action Alert at

<http://www.coloradokids.org/includes/downloads/supportrevenuebills1.24.10.pdf>.

Other News from the Capitol

On Monday, January 25th, House Bill 1030 was approved by the House Education Committee in a 12-1 vote. The bill would establish a scholarship program for early childhood teachers trying to earn associate's degrees in the field. Children's Campaign Early Childhood Initiatives Director, Jon-Paul Bianchi, testified on the merits of the bill before the committee. The bill heads to the House Appropriations Committee next.

Click here to read HB 1030 at <http://tinyurl.com/ye7uh66>.

Priority Bills to be Heard Next Week

House Bill 1026 will be heard by the House Education Committee this Monday, February 1st. The bill would create a child care quality incentive grant program to fund higher child care reimbursement rates for early education providers who improve and sustain program quality.

Click here to read the Children's Campaign's fact sheet on HB 1026 at

<http://tinyurl.com/yaoe4xs>.

Click here for the full House and Senate calendars at <http://tinyurl.com/yfx4pr9>.

The Dolls are Back!

In honor of the Children's Campaign's 25th anniversary, we are proud to announce

the return of Doll Day! This year, we will celebrate Doll Day on the same day as the release of our *2010 KidsCount in Colorado!* report, planned for Spring 2010. Doll Day is a statewide advocacy activity geared towards educating our communities, lawmakers and other leaders about the importance of child-friendly policies. As in years' past, the Children's Campaign will work with organizations and communities throughout Colorado to decorate dolls for 2010 Doll Day activities. If you'd like to volunteer to coordinate doll decorating in your community, please contact Children's Campaign It's About Kids Network Coordinator, Liz Houston, at (303) 620-4532 or liz@coloradokids.org. We will send you more information about Doll Day in the coming weeks.

Show Your Support for a Fiscally Sound Colorado

The Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute (COFPI) is organizing a rally on the state capitol steps on February 11th from 10:30am to 1:30pm to show support for the Governor's FY10-11 budget. We will update you as more information becomes available but, until then, mark your calendars!

Quality Teachers Commission Reconvenes for 2010

The Quality Teachers Commission held its first meeting of 2010 this month and re-selected Children's Campaign Senior Policy and Education Initiatives Director, Scott Groginsky, as the Commission Chairman. The 13-member commission was established in 2007 by Senate Bill 140 (The Quality Teachers Act) to examine the development and implementation of a unique teacher and principal identifier system. Recommendations made by the Commission were used to develop legislation that established the educator identifier, which will provide critical state data about teacher and principal effectiveness, educator mobility and the effectiveness of professional development and teacher preparation programs. The Commission was re-established last year by HB 1065 to analyze the teacher gap and monitor implementation of the teacher and principal identifier.

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