WHERE TO FIND LEGISLATIVE AND ADVOCACY UPDATES

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FAMILIES

Bringing Lived Experience to Family Support

www.ffcmh.org/legislation-and-advocacy | mcovington@ffcmh.org
NATIONALLY
Advancing Health Care Policy for Mental Health and Addiction

www.abhw.org/advocacy
American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

For Advocacy Issues
https://services.aap.org/en/advocacy/

State-Focused Advocacy
https://services.aap.org/en/advocacy/state-advocacy/
The Center aims to improve children's lives through advances in law, justice, knowledge, practice and public policy.

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/
Child Trends is the nation’s leading research organization focused exclusively on improving the lives of children and youth, especially those who are most vulnerable.

https://www.childtrends.org/
ChildFocus connects people, programs and policy to support non-profits, philanthropy and government as unrelenting champions for children, youth and families.

https://www.childfocuspartners.com/
The Child Welfare League Of America (CWLA) is a coalition of private and public agencies that since 1920 has worked to serve children and families who are vulnerable. Their expertise, leadership and innovation on policies, programs, and practices help improve the lives of millions of children across the country.

https://www.cwla.org/
The Children’s Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

https://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/policy-priorities/
Building on a long history of championing personal advocacy, DBSA also advocates for placing peers at the forefront when determining needs and best practices for mental health services. They support both policy and media related advocacy at national and state levels, ensuring the needs and concerns of peers are front and center in policy, service delivery, and treatment decisions.

https://www.dbsalliance.org/get-involved/advocacy-center/
Disability Scoop is the nation’s largest news organization devoted to covering developmental disabilities. With daily coverage of autism, intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and more, no other news source offers a timelier and more comprehensive take on issues that matter to the developmental disability community.

https://www.disabilityscoop.com/latest-news/
Families USA, a leading national, non-partisan voice for health care consumers, is dedicated to achieving high-quality, affordable health care and improved health for all. Their work is driven by and centered around four pillars: value, equity, coverage, and consumer experience.

https://familiesusa.org/act/
Family Focused Treatment Association, (FFTA) was founded to develop, promote and support treatment foster care. Over the years, they’ve grown to become the national, nonprofit association representing treatment foster care programs across North America.

https://www.ffta.org/page/Advocacy
**Family Voices** is a national organization and grassroots network of families and friends of children and youth with special health care needs and disabilities that promotes partnership with families – including those of cultural, linguistic and geographic diversity – in order to improve healthcare services and policies for children. Family Voices provides information about current policy proposals that could affect children and their families, the policy-making process, and how families can influence policy decisions.

[FamilyVoices.org/publicpolicy](http://FamilyVoices.org/publicpolicy)
The First Focus Campaign for Children is a bipartisan children’s advocacy organization. The Campaign for Children advocates directly for legislative change in Congress to ensure children and families are a priority in federal policy and budget decisions. They maintain a bill tracker to help you keep up to date on the latest affecting children.

https://ffccscorecard.org/billtracker
Generations United believes that public policy should meet the needs of all generations and that resources are more wisely used when they connect generations rather than separate them. They promote an intergenerational approach to framing public policies that impact children, youth and older adult issues.

https://www.gu.org/what-we-do/public-policy/
Juvenile Law Center advocates for rights, dignity, equity and opportunity for youth in the child welfare and justice systems. Through litigation, appellate advocacy and submission of amicus (friend-of-the-court) briefs, policy reform, public education, training, consulting, and strategic communications, they fight for children who come into contact with the child welfare and justice systems.

https://jlc.org/
The Kennedy Forum seeks to transform the way mental health and substance use disorders are treated in our health care system.

- Parity Tracker
  - Federally
  - By State
- Parity Registry
- Don’t Deny Me Campaign

https://www.thekennedyforum.org/
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance (MMHLA) dedicated to promoting the mental health of mothers and childbearing people in the United States with a focus on national policy and health equity. They have both federal and state resources.

https://www.mmhla.org/advocating-for-change/
MindSite News uses journalism to elevate the conversation around mental health, informing the public and policymakers and helping create better outcomes. They send a daily newsletter to your inbox summarizing the most important mental health stories of the day. They have an active policy tracker.

https://mindsitenews.org/policy-tracker/
Mental Health America believes policy should ask people what they need to live the lives they want and support them in getting there. Recovery is founded on the principle that people can take on meaningful roles in the community despite mental health challenges, when they receive the support they need. MHA's goal is recovery for all.

https://mhanational.org/policy-issues
Take Action
https://nami.quorum.us/action_center/

State Fact Sheets
https://www.nami.org/Advocacy/State-Fact-Sheets

Policy Priorities
https://www.nami.org/Advocacy/Policy-Priorities

Public Policy Reports
www.nami.org/Support-Education/Publications-Reports/Public-Policy-Reports

NAMI’s Federal Advocacy
https://nami.quorum.us/federalpolicy/
NCSL represents legislatures in the states, territories and commonwealths of the U.S. Its mission is to advance the effectiveness, independence and integrity of legislatures and to foster interstate cooperation and facilitate the exchange of information among legislatures. They have an active searchable bill database.

www.ncsl.org
The National Council for Mental Wellbeing is a membership organization that drives policy and social change on behalf of nearly 3,500 mental health and substance use treatment organizations and the more than 10 million children, adults and families they serve. They advocate for policies to ensure equitable access to high-quality services and promote greater understanding of mental wellbeing as a core component of comprehensive health and health care.
The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges provides judges, courts, and related agencies involved with juvenile, family, and domestic violence cases with the knowledge and skills to improve the lives of families and children who seek justice.
The National Council of Nonprofits keeps nonprofits informed and empowered to create a positive public policy environment that best supports nonprofits in advancing their missions. They have a free bi-weekly newsletter, *Nonprofit Advocacy Matters*.

https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/everyday-advocacy
The National Health Law Program protects and advances health rights of low-income and underserved individuals and families. We advocate, educate and litigate at the federal and state levels to advance health and civil rights in the U.S.

https://healthlaw.org/our-work/policy/
Parity is about fairness. Americans with behavioral health conditions often have more difficulty getting the treatment and services they need when compared to individuals seeking other medical care. Explore parity-related information at the federal level regarding legislation, statutes, and regulatory actions since the Federal Parity Law was passed in 2008.

www.paritytrack.org

Federal Parity Reports
State Parity Reports
The Partnership for America’s Children’s mission is to support its network of state and community child advocacy organizations in effective advocacy. The Partnership connects its members to peer expertise and national resources and facilitates interstate collaborations to deepen the level of impact of child advocacy within and across states.

https://foramericaschildren.org/content/about-partnership
The Partnership to End Addiction partners with families, professionals and other organizations to end addiction in this country. Theirs is a public health approach, rooted in science and compassion.

https://drugfree.org/advocate-for-change/
Shatterproof is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reversing the addiction crisis in the United States.

shatterproof.org/advocacy
Within Our Reach is an office established within the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities to further the recommendations of the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities.

Policy Action Center (alliance1.org)
WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR LEGISLATIVE UPDATES?

Please let us know where you get the legislative news for your state.

Send additional organizations and resources to Mcovington@ffcmh.org
Keep up with the latest on the National Federation of Families Legislative and Advocacy Facebook page.

https://www.facebook.com/NationalFederationLegislationAdvocacy
THANKS FOR ADVOCATING