

Legislative and Advocacy From the States

Session Wrap-Ups

June 2019

The Alabama Literacy Act, HB388 –

The bill by Rep. Terri Collins, R-Decatur, requires schools to provide summer reading camps to all K-3 students who struggle with reading. Starting in the 2021-2022 school year, third-grade students will have to demonstrate “sufficient reading skills” for promotion to fourth grade. There are exemptions for special-needs students and students with limited English language skills. No student can be held back more than twice because of the legislation.



Alabama

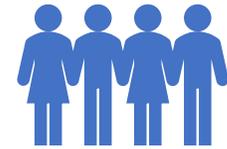
The Legislature gave final passage to SB199, also known as the **Educational Trust Fund Budget**.

This included a historic \$26.8 million increase in funding for Alabama’s First Class Pre-K, the largest-ever increase, bringing the total level of funding for the program to \$122.8 million.

The increase will enable the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education to create around 200 additional classrooms and raise the total percentage of four-year-olds enrolled in the program from 32 to nearly 40 percent.

Alabama Legislative Actions

- HB79 sought to expand and clarify the requirements of child advocacy centers across the state .was sent to Governor Ivey's desk to be signed on Friday.
- There was a significant increase for the Department of Rehab Services' Early Intervention Program, one of VOICES For Alabama's Children's policy priorities.
- The Alabama Legislature has given final approval to a \$26.8 million expansion of First Class Pre-K! This should result in around 200 new classrooms for 2019-2020 soon.





Read the Legislative
Summary from
[Children's Action
Alliance](#)

*Who's for kids and
Who's just kidding?*

Arizona

HB 2055— Allow Juvenile Court to Make Decisions Supporting Youth

- This legislation helps youth who have been involved with the juvenile justice system overcome obstacles to employment, education and success as an adult. It gives juvenile court judges, under specific circumstances, discretion to set aside or destroy a delinquent record, adjust fines and designate certain offenses as misdemeanors.

KidsCare

- The new state budget sustains KidsCare health coverage for 35,000 children! The budget removes the automatic freeze and allocates \$8 million in state funds to match \$98 million in federal funds to give Arizona a healthier future.

Arizona

Three New Laws Will Help Children Living in Foster Care



Without much warning, grandparents and other relatives take children in when the Department of Child Safety knocks on their doors. To improve family stability, the new state budget requires DCS to pay each and every kinship caregiver \$75 a month for each child in their care, without requiring an application.



As AHCCCS has moved to integrate medical and behavioral health care for enrollees, children in foster care have not been included. SB 1246 changes this scenario and allows DCS to integrate behavioral health services into their Comprehensive Medical and Dental Program (CMDP) to improve case coordination and children's health.



Youth who are living in foster care at age 18 and have no permanent family can benefit from extended assistance. The passage of SB 1539 allows more young adults to remain in extended care until age 21. The state can draw down additional federal dollars to support a successful transition to adulthood, including help with housing, education, employment and health care.

ARKANSAS 92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Fast Facts – 2019 Legislative Session

1,699

bills filed



\$5.75 billion

state budget
2019-2020



1,091

bills
passed



AACF sent

16 advocacy alerts,
resulting in

719 advocates
contacting
their legislators

2,334 times
by phone
or email

12 bills

from AACF
agenda
introduced



AACF testified
10 times
before
legislative
committees



140 people attended
Kids Count Day
at the Capitol



For more, visit aradvocates.org/2019Session

Arkansas

Over a thousand bills were passed during the 2019 General Assembly.

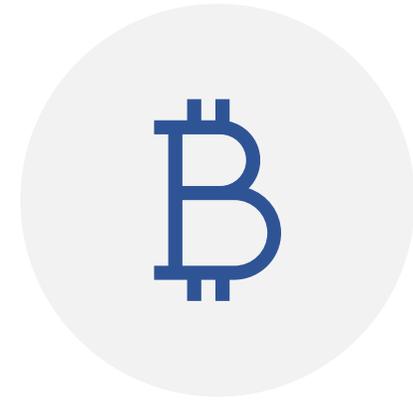
From major juvenile justice reform to protecting the minimum wage increase and banning corporal punishment in schools for children with certain disabilities, the Kids at the Capitol 2019 Legislative Summary covers it.



LANDMARK LEGISLATION PASSED THAT BEGINS THE PROCESS OF REFORMING THE **ARKANSAS JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**.



ACT 189 WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF YOUTH AND THE LENGTH OF STAY IN JUVENILE LOCKUPS.



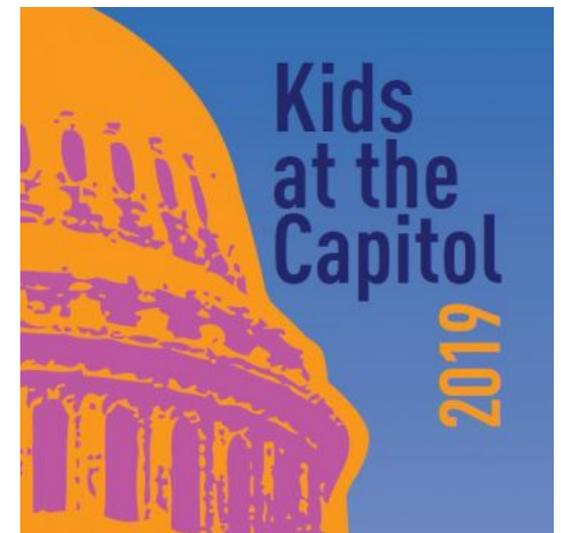
SOME OF THE FUNDING USED FROM SECURE CONFINEMENT WILL BE REDIRECTED TO MORE EFFECTIVE (AND LESS EXPENSIVE) COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.

Arkansas

KIDS AT THE CAPITOL: 2019 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Read about the good laws that passed, the legislation we wished had, and the not-so-good legislation that passed or was thwarted.

<http://www.aradvocates.org/wpcontent/uploads/Kids-at-the-Capitol-webfinal.5.1.19.pdf>





Training for providers who will be administering trauma screenings for children, taking an important step toward responding to a request we put forward alongside advocacy partners to ensure we build a system of early identification, linkage to appropriate services, and high-quality interventions that reach every community in California



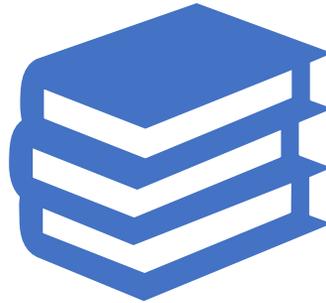
Additional resources for critical programs supporting low-income families and their children, including expanding the California Home Visiting and Black Infant Health Programs



Expansion of financial assistance to pay for the challenging, high costs of health care

Infant and Family Child Care Action Plan (Priola & Story/Buentello & Valdez)

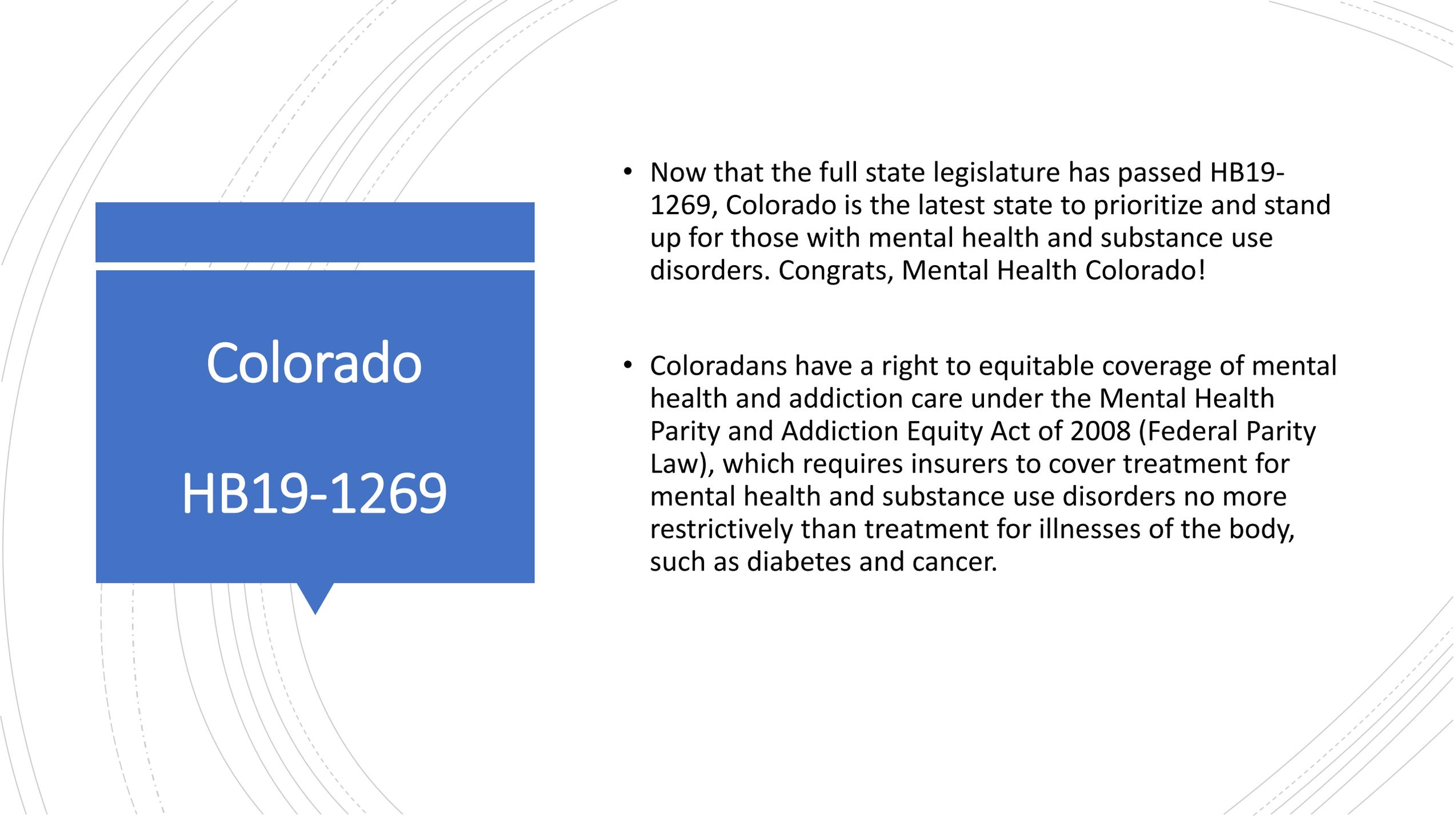
SB19-063 requires the Colorado Department of Human Services, in partnership with the Early Childhood Leadership Commission and other stakeholders, to create a strategic action plan by December 2019 to address the declining availability of infant care and family child care homes in Colorado. Read more about the bill's passage out of the legislature [here](#).



State Funding for Full-day Kindergarten (Wilson & McLachlan/Bridges)

HB19-1262 would fund full-day kindergarteners as full-day students rather than treating them as half-day students as the state currently does. This will mean parents will no longer face the burden of tuition and districts will free up resources previously spent on full-day kindergarten to address local needs. It would also reallocate more than 5,000 early learning slots currently being used for kindergarten to expand access to high-quality preschool for more children. Read more about the Bill and its passage out of the House Education and Appropriations Committees [here](#).

Colorado



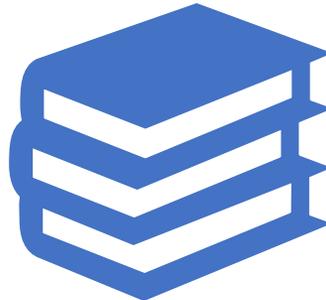
Colorado

HB19-1269

- Now that the full state legislature has passed HB19-1269, Colorado is the latest state to prioritize and stand up for those with mental health and substance use disorders. Congrats, Mental Health Colorado!
- Coloradans have a right to equitable coverage of mental health and addiction care under the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (Federal Parity Law), which requires insurers to cover treatment for mental health and substance use disorders no more restrictively than treatment for illnesses of the body, such as diabetes and cancer.

Care4Kids

Provides child care subsidies for low-income, working families. It received a moderate increase of approximately \$5 million in funding, as well as a \$14 million carry over from surplus funds from the previous year.



- **Two-Generation Strategies**

The legislature passed [S.B. 1080](#), which established a Two-Generational Family Economic Success Cabinet. The cabinet's goals are to achieve measurable results through coordinated interagency action by removing institutional barriers to implementation of two-generational initiatives, share data to facilitate two-generation strategies, coordinate and leverage existing resources to help families overcome common barriers to economic success, and established shared indicators and goals in order to improve and increase efficiency in Connecticut's systems.

Connecticut

Paid Family and Medical Leave

- Connecticut became the seventh state to pass legislation implementing a system of Paid Family and Medical Leave.

Early Childhood Educator Compensation

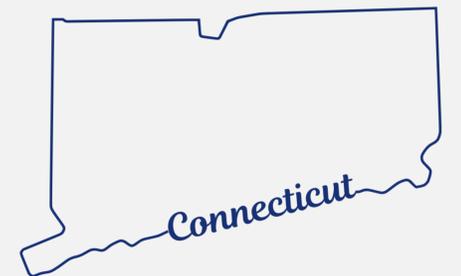
- The legislature passed [S.B. 935](#), which requires the Office of Early Childhood to develop an early childhood educator compensation schedule by 2020. This compensation schedule will set a minimum compensation level for early childhood educators as well as a series of compensation steps and ranges aligned with experience in early childhood settings and education and training.

Debt-Free Community College

- The budget included and the legislature released and endorsed a plan to provide debt-free community college for Connecticut's residents. Through the plan, the state will pay the students' tuition at Connecticut's community colleges for their first 72 credit hours over the course of 36 months after students have exhausted other grants and scholarship programs (i.e., Pell grants). The program will be paid for through the legalization of online lottery games, and will begin in the Fall 2020 semester.

Diaper Assistance

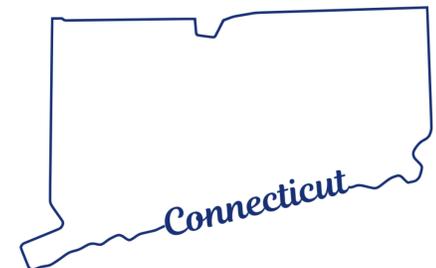
- The budget provides a \$500,000 grant to the Diaper Bank to provide more diapers to families in need.



- HUSKY, the state Medicaid program administered by DSS, increased eligibility levels from 150% (\$31,995 for a family of three) to 155% (\$33,061 for a family of three) of the federal poverty level. However, the bill also includes a 5% income disregard, meaning that the income limit is effectively 160% FPL (\$34,128).
- Additionally, the state budget includes increases for HUSKY B, the state's children's health insurance program (CHIP) in order to compensate for reduced federal funding, ensuring that Connecticut's children will not lose their health care coverage.

HUSKY (Medicaid) Funding

**Increases to HUSKY
A Eligibility and
HUSKY B Funding**



At last count, the fewest number of bills in 10 years made it through the first chamber (293) and second lowest number made it through both chambers (174) and journeyed their way to the Governor for his signature or veto.



Florida

Positive Legislation

- Safeguards for incarcerated girls and women
- Elimination of mandatory direct file
- Increased involvement in child welfare dependency court for the state's successful Guardian ad Litem Program.

Florida - SB 124

- Will provide a voice for Florida's children dually served by the child welfare and juvenile justice system and children aging out of the child welfare system.
- This bill will allow a Guardian ad Litem to have the ability to advocate in the best interest of the child, as well as petition to have the venue of court proceedings changed to reduce barriers faced by the child.



Senate Bill 48



Georgia

- Georgia's first dyslexia mandate easily passed both chambers of the General Assembly this year.
- In five years, all Georgia elementary schools will have to screen every kindergartner for a reading condition called dyslexia.
- New teacher training will begin next year.

[View the GA Budget Breakdown for Children's Issues](#)



- [Kids and the FY20 State Budget](#)
- Voices is tracking every dollar the Legislature allocates to child-relevant programs and organizations.

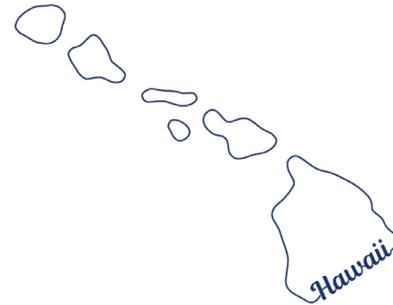
Georgia – Signs HB 514 into Law

The Bill creates the Georgia Mental Health Reform and Innovation Commission to provide for legislative findings; to provide for a definition; to provide for members and officers; to provide for meetings, agendas, quorum, and compensation; to provide for the commission's duties and powers; to provide for subcommittees; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.



Hawaii

Children's Policy Agenda Update



Child Safety and Welfare

- Bill clarifying that health insurance providers must cover clinical victim support services as a benefit of their plans **SB1036** and **HCR93/HR88**
- Eliminating status offenses for youth (i.e., truancy, runaway) **SB 1019**
- Making Erin's Law (sexual violence prevention program) available in schools, K-12. The bills were turned into Resolutions **HCR28/HR33** and **SCR 74/SR 52**
- Establishing a pilot housing program for homeless youth **SB1019**

[Click to view full Policy Agenda](#)



VOICES

FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN

Illinois

2019 Legislative Bills Effecting Illinois Children

- [http://www.voices4kids.org/
what-you-can-do/legislation/](http://www.voices4kids.org/what-you-can-do/legislation/)



Iowa House passes Children's Mental Health Bill

A bill that would create a mental health services program for children is moving on to the Iowa Senate. The bill would create a mental health system similar to the current one for adults. A children's mental health system is one of Governor Reynolds' top priorities for 2019. In a statement, the Governor said, "We are one step closer to an integrated health care system that recognizes children's mental health needs. We've been talking about this for decades, but now is the time to act."

Iowa Highlights

Established and fund a children's mental health system

- The Governor's children's mental health bill received strong bipartisan support in both chambers, a reflection of her leadership and the legislature's commitment to finally make children's mental health a priority. This legislation is an important first step, but without adequate funding progress will only go so far. Advocates will keep working with legislators and the Governor to ensure the system receives necessary funding and incorporates greater focus on prevention services.

Child Health

- Expanded the 1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative to remaining 11 unserved counties

Medicaid

- Rejected work reporting requirements that would take away health coverage from Medicaid members
- Waived the five-year waiting period for legal permanent residents to access Medicaid prenatal and maternity services

Early Childhood

- Restored funding for Early Childhood Iowa to 2008 level with an \$18 million funding increase

Iowa

Iowa School staff to start Mental Health Training in schools

- School teachers and staff across the state of Iowa are now in the beginning of their training for addressing children's mental health needs within their school buildings.
- Governor Reynolds set aside [\\$2.1 million of the \\$950 million state education budget](#) for children's mental health training and support in schools. The money will help Iowa's Area Education Agencies who will oversee the training for schools across the state.

Implement provisions of the Family First Prevention Services Act

- Iowa's legislature passed a bill that lays the foundation for this major shift. It includes a series of provisions, for example, assuring that unless there's imminent risk to the child's life or health, the courts will allow visitation between parents and children while a child is in care. It's a good start toward improving outcomes for foster youth.

Support design and implementation of a new DHS computer system with \$15 million state investment

- DHS workers currently use an antiquated computer system. They need one that will help them better collect and share data in real time about the children and families they serve. The Governor and House both proposed some dollars in their budgets, but the money was taken out in final negotiations. There is language in the HHS budget bill, however, that DHS has the option to use unspent funds on technology needs.

Kentucky Wins for kids



SENATE BILL 1 WILL INCREASE STUDENT SAFETY AND ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SCHOOLS.



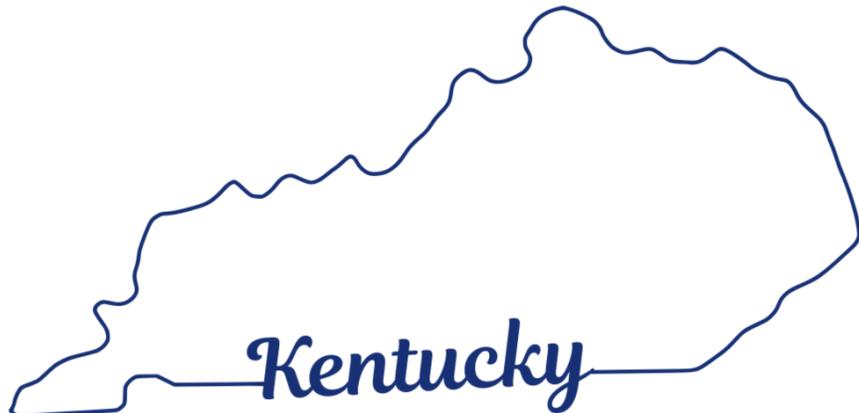
HOUSE BILL 2 WILL IMPROVE STATE SUPPORTS AND DATA REPORTING FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS.



HOUSE BILL 11 WILL ENACT A STATEWIDE TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL CAMPUS POLICY.



HOUSE BILL 158 WILL ESTABLISH A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE AND BEGINS TO ALIGN STATE CHILD WELFARE LAWS WITH FEDERAL LAWS.



Maine



Legislative Bill Tracker

During the Legislative Session, Maine lawmakers made a number of decisions that affect children, youth and families almost every day.

The link below is designed to act as a resource to help you learn and track the status of some bills that affect Maine kids.

[Maine Children's Alliance](#)

Governor Mills brings back Children's Cabinet in Maine

Governor Janet Mills promised during her inauguration to bring back the “Children's Cabinet” and has done so. Senator Angus King created the cabinet when he was governor, for government agencies to collaborate on policies to support Maine’s children.

The goal of the cabinet is to develop a set of ideas and action steps to help children in Maine.

Its two primary focuses will be on ensuring the youngest children are supported in their early childhood development and on helping children get the support services they need.

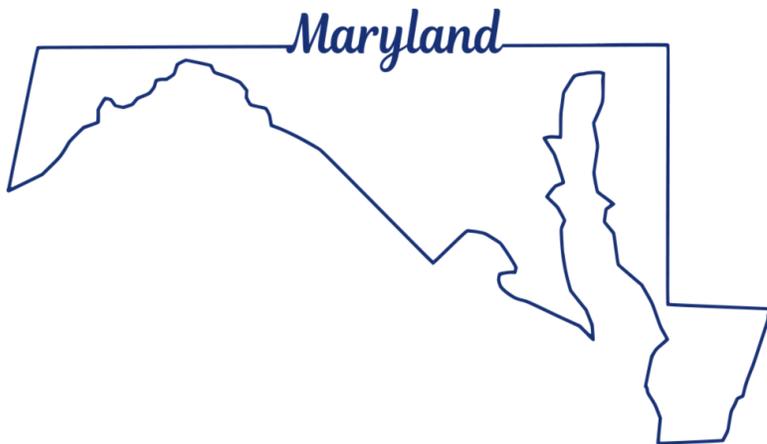
The cabinet will meet every six weeks.



Maryland

Bill Tracker from Advocates for Children and Youth

- <https://www.acy.org/policies/where-we-stand/>



The annual budget, which decides how our state and federal governments spend our tax dollars, is the single most powerful expression of our governments' priorities. While there are many competing interests and finite resources, changes in tax policies and in the spending of state revenues can potentially change the odds for children and families who are already facing challenges. As Michigan becomes more diverse, funding decisions that do not explicitly address underlying inequities resource and opportunity will lead to longer-term fiscal hardships for all Michigan residents. Decision-makers need to prioritize budget investments that improve outcomes for all children by closing the equity gaps that begin early and accumulate over a lifetime.

Current Year State Budget Resources:

- [Stability for Children and Youth in Care \(5/19\)](#)
- [Ensuring A Healthy Start in the State Budget \(5/19\)](#)
- [Ensuring Quality Child Care in the State Budget \(5/19\)](#)
- [Supporting Parents UPDATE \(6/19\)](#)
- [Successful Foster Care Transitions – UPDATE \(5/19\)](#)
- [Building Family Literacy \(3/19\)](#)
- [Governor Whitmer's FY20 Budget Recommendations](#)
- [Read our summary of the current state budget here](#)

Federal Budget Resources:

- [Federal CCDBG Sign-On Letter](#), and [Federal CAPTA Sign-On Letter](#)
- [Summary of the Current Federal Budget](#)
- [Letter to Legislative Directors of the Michigan Congressional Delegation \(2019\)](#)
- [First Focus budget resources](#)
- [National Women's Law Center's budget resources](#)
- See the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities overview [Where Do Our Federal Tax Dollars Go?](#)

Michigan's
Children

*Public policy
in the best interest
of children*

PLAYBOOK for Michigan's Children

2019-2020 Legislative Priorities

2019 is an exciting year for Michigan's future, as we work with a new crop of legislators, new faces in Congress, changes to the State Board of Education and a new Superintendent, and a new Governor. Children, youth and families don't have high paid lobbyists or superPACs looking out for their best interests in Lansing or in Washington, DC, but they do have all of us.

Michigan's Children continues to prioritize policies driven by research and best practice. Our policy priorities are always guided by the experiences and recommendations of children, youth and families and the programs that serve them well, helping to close equity gaps and improve the odds for Michigan's future. This playbook was informed by youth – and family led candidate forums in 11 communities around the state, as well as FamilySpeaks, KidsSpeaks, and other training and outreach opportunities representing dozens more.

To know whether our policy priorities are meeting our mission, we evaluate how they stack up against our [core policy principles](#). To learn about how we are fighting for children, youth and families this legislative session, click on the boxes. To view our entire Playbook click [here](#).



Michigan's Children
PROVEN PLAYS
FOR
STRONG FAMILIES




- Keeping all families strong
- Supporting struggling families
- Responsibility for the most vulnerable children, youth and families



Michigan's Children
PROVEN PLAYS
FOR
READY LEARNERS



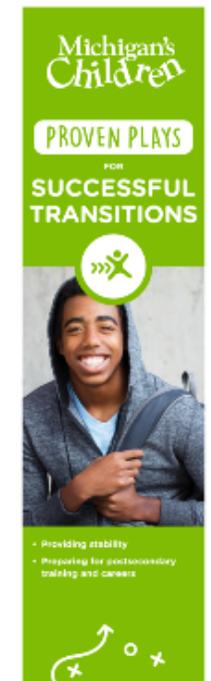

- Quality care for children
- A healthy start
- Supporting parents



Michigan's Children
PROVEN PLAYS
FOR
THRIVING STUDENTS




- Academic tools and pathways
- Family skill-building
- Access to resources for learning
- Skilled school professionals
- Early learning



Michigan's Children
PROVEN PLAYS
FOR
SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS




- Providing stability
- Preparing for postsecondary training and careers

US DOJ vs. State of Mississippi: Adult Mental Health Trial Begins



NFFCMH's State Chapter, **Families as Allies**, will have staff members attending the trial, and we will be posting updates as well as providing links to news stories over the duration of the trial, which is expected to last 6 weeks.

This week was the opening of the trial that is a result of the lawsuit the U.S. Department of Justice filed in 2016 against the state of Mississippi for violating Olmstead.

The U.S. Justice Department sued the state in 2016. It says

Mississippi breaks the Americans with Disabilities Act by forcing too many people into state hospitals and not providing enough services in the community



Pro-Kid Legislative Recap

Nebraska Victories for Kids

- **Paid family and medical leave.** For the first time ever, the Legislature debated a proposal to provide paid family and medical leave to Nebraska workers. [LB 311](#),
- **College savings accounts for every Nebraska baby.** Lawmakers approved the Meadowlark Act, which creates a college savings account with an initial seed deposit for every Nebraska baby starting in 2020. [LB 610](#), which also includes an incentive match payment for college savings contributions made by low-income families.
- **Addressing the school-to-prison pipeline.** [LB 390](#), will reduce school-based arrests that contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline, by ensuring law enforcement officers stationed in schools have clearly defined roles and duties. They will also receive training on adolescent development, responding to students with disabilities and implicit bias.
- **Allowing juveniles impacted by our youth justice system a clean slate through record sealing.** [LB 354](#), requires automatic sealing of juvenile records at the time probation or court orders are successfully completed and provides for a number of other clarifications and protections for young people who deserve a clean slate when exiting the juvenile system. The bill had broad support from system stakeholders, including youth, at its hearing and moved swiftly through debate on the floor.

Nevada

The Children's Advocacy Alliance, in partnership with the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, tracks all of the legislation relating to Nevada's children and families. The bill tracking list contains useful information related to the current status of the legislation and categorizes the bills related to their respective issue area.

- <https://www.caanv.org/legislative-session/>

Nevada Children's Policy Update

Bill and Bill Draft Requests - 2019 Nevada Legislative Session

A complete list of Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) are available on the NV State Legislature homepage.

Bill #	BDR	Description	Requestor
		Education	
10		Makes various changes relating to education.	Senator Hammond (originally Senator Harris)
13		Revises provisions relating to education.	Senator Harris
14		Revises provisions relating to education.	Senator Gansert
82		Revises provisions governing charter schools.	Assemblywoman Titus
93		Revises provisions governing read by grade 3 in public schools.	Assemblyman Thompson
107		Makes an appropriation for educational leadership training programs.	Senate Committee on Finance
122		Makes various education reforms.	Assemblyman Edwards
132		Requires that instruction in the founding principles of American government be specifically included in public schools.	Assemblyman Wheeler
144		Makes appropriations for incentives for employing teachers at Title I and underperforming schools.	Assemblyman Frierson
156		Revises provisions relating to the board of trustees of certain school districts.	Senator Kieckhefer
160		WITHDRAWN - Revises provisions relating to education.	Senator Cancela
161		Revises provisions relating to education funding.	Senator Kieckhefer
162		Makes certain changes relating to education.	Senator Garza
163		Makes certain training required of teachers.	Senator
164		Makes changes relating to education, including increasing the salary for all members of the board of trustees of certain school districts, requiring the school board districts in certain counties to have the same geographic boundaries, and authorizing public schools, including charter schools, to accept membership for Public School Pupils.	Senator
165		Makes certain changes relating to education funding.	Senator



Children's
Advocacy
ALLIANCE

Workers at the Division for Children, Youth and Families have some of the highest average workloads in the country. Senate Bill 6, a measure to dramatically increase the staffing at the agency, adding funding for 77 new positions over two years.



New Hampshire

Senate Bill 14, seeks to fund preventative programs to better divert children from dangerous situations. That bill includes \$19.2 million in funding, about half of which would go to fund nine children's mobile crisis units around the state – enough for each child to get a response to a behavioral health emergency within an hour, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

SB 14 was signed into law! This bipartisan bill improves the System of Care for all children and makes mobile crisis services available statewide.

Senate Bill 14 has been signed into law!

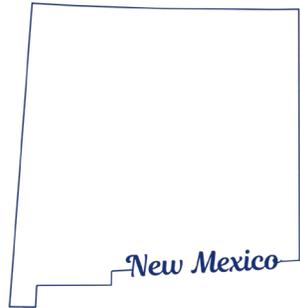
Thank you for advocating for our children!





New Jersey - lawmakers signed major Mental Health Parity Legislation

Governor Phil Murphy signed this critical legislation sponsored by Speaker Craig Coughlin and Tom Kean to prevent illegal denials of care and to help enforce the Federal Parity Law.



2019 Legislative Priorities

Here you will find fact sheets created on the pieces of legislation that are their top priority.

The links for the bill numbers will take you to the New Mexico legislative website.

<https://www.nmvoices.org/our-2019-legislative-priorities>

New Mexico

New Mexico's Legislative Session Updates

Criminal and juvenile justice changes that will benefit kids and families

Ban on solitary confinement of juveniles enacted. Regulates the use of solitary confinement in correctional facilities, including county jails, prisons, and other detention facilities. Applies to juveniles and those with a behavioral health diagnosis.

Marijuana possession partially decreases penalties for possession of small amounts of marijuana and for the possession of drug paraphernalia.

Expungement enacted. Allows a person to petition the district court to delete their arrest records and public records in the case of identity theft, wrongful arrest, indictment or charge upon dismissal without conviction or upon completion of one's sentence and payment of one's fines.

'Ban the box' enacted. Prohibits private employers from inquiring about an applicant's conviction on the initial employment application. They may inquire during the interview process, but this gives the applicant the opportunity to explain.

Schuyler Center's Last Look at the State Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget

New York



Schuyler Center's Last Look at the State Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget

On April 1, 2019, the New York State Legislature and Governor reached agreement on the 2019-20 State Budget. Schuyler Center's *Last Look* is our assessment of the enacted State budget as it compares to Schuyler Center's policy priorities.

The Budget is largely disappointing in its failure to include bold proposals to provide the tens of thousands of families experiencing poverty or near poverty a pathway into economic security. Missing are significant investments in services proven to improve family economic security, strengthen families, and prevent child welfare involvement, like quality, affordable child care, evidence-based home visitation, family strengthening programs, and working family tax credits.

The Legislative one-house budgets included a proposal to help low-income families afford child care, but it was dropped from the final budget, despite significant advocacy. Schuyler Center, together with partners and allies, spent these recent months fighting hard to secure investments in strengthening families, protecting children, expanding educational opportunities, and improving health outcomes, with mixed success.

The final budget contains a few bright spots for New York children and families, chief among them a seed investment to support, recruit, and retain current and prospective foster families, including kinship caregivers. Other investments for children and families contained in the budget are increases in funding for the Foster Youth College Success Initiative and Pre-K, along with limited investment in Early Intervention services for very young children with developmental delays or disabilities.

With the budget battle behind us, we continue to work with partners in and outside government to ensure State resources are used as effectively as possible so all New York children have fair opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.



CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

Preventive, Protective, Independent Living, Adoption, and Aftercare Services

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** appropriates – level with previous years funding – \$635 million for preventive, protective, independent living, adoption, and aftercare services, and, once again this year, reduces the State share to 62% from 65% (as is written in statute).

The budget flat funds \$12 million for the Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) program, continuing to limit that funding to counties that were funded when the COPS program was cut in 2008.

Background

Localities use the open-ended preventive funding stream to pay child protective services along with services to prevent children from entering, or re-entering, foster care. While State reimbursement to counties is written into statute at 65%, it has been reduced to 62% through the budget every year since 2008.

New York

CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

Family First Transition Fund

- \$3 million of new federal adoption de-linking funds to create a Family First Transition Fund to help counties prepare for implementation of the new Family First Prevention Services Act.

Foster Care Block Grant

- Level-funds the Foster Care Block Grant at \$383.5 million and does not restore the \$62 million cut to the Foster Care Block Grant included in the 2017-18 Enacted Budget.

Kinship Caregiver Services and Kinship Navigator

- Funding for kinship caregiver services at \$2.4 million. The Assembly added \$1.9 million to the \$338,750 included in the Executive Budget. This represents level funding compared to last year's enacted budget. The budget also provides \$320,500 in funding for the statewide Kinship Navigator information and referral network. The Assembly added \$100,000 to the Executive's \$220,500, bringing the total funding level compared to last year's enacted budget.

New York

CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

Foster Care and Higher Education

- \$6 million in funding for the Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI) to support youth in foster care to pursue higher education to graduation. The Legislature added \$4.5 to the Governor's \$1.5 million investment, to bring total investment to the same amount – \$6 million – allocated in last year's budget.

Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS)

- The Final Budget changes the law governing Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS – youth that act out such that their parents or guardians are unable to supervise them), in a number of very important ways.
- Among the most important changes:
 - PINS youth may no longer be placed in detention
 - Counties may continue to access uncapped state preventive funding to provide critical support to these youth and their families, like respite care, counseling and other services for PINS diversion
 - PINS youth (pre- and post-disposition) may be placed in foster care when deemed the safest option.

EARLY CHILDHOOD WELL-BEING – New York

Pre-Kindergarten

- Adds \$15 million in new funding for pre-K expansion for 3- and 4-year-olds served.

Maternal Health

- \$8 million to establish a Maternal Mortality Review Board to conduct a multidisciplinary review of every maternal death and develop recommendations to improve care and management. Funds also will support expansion of Community Health Worker programs; creation of a maternal mortality and morbidity data warehouse; and other strategies to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity.

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

- \$3.5 million for the Nurse-Family Partnership Program, a \$500,000 increase compared to last year,

Child Care

- The Final Budget includes a \$26 million increase over last year's child care subsidy funding.

NC Child

The Voice for North Carolina's Children

- NC Child does weekly Legislative Updates on their [Facebook page](#)

- Legislative Action Page



NC Child: the Voice for North Carolina's Children was live.

6 hrs · 🌐

The video player shows a collage of images related to children and families. The collage includes: a man holding a baby, a family walking outdoors, a woman sitting at a table, a baby crawling, a young girl playing a violin, and a group of people. The video title is 'Legislative Update—6/14/19' and the duration is '-9:16'. The player controls include a play button, a progress bar, a settings gear, a share icon, a zoom icon, and a mute icon.



1 Share 51 Views

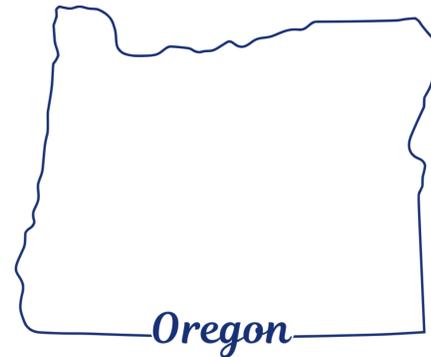


INSTITUTE
FOR **CHILD**
ADVOCACY

Oklahoma

- [Click for their 2019 Legislative Scorecard](#)

Juvenile Justice



Oregon

Lawmakers approved a series of significant changes to Oregon's juvenile justice system that mean the end of a decades-old practice of automatically sending youth accused of serious crimes to adult court.

Senate Bill 1008 passed the Oregon House by a 40-to-18 vote

Pennsylvania

**View the latest updates on
Children's Priorities from**



Juvenile Justice



South Carolina

17 year old's no longer classified as Adults in the Judicial System

By raising the age youth offenders are able to stay in the family court system and get help longer.

The law doesn't include juvenile offenders who commit crimes that carry sentences of 15 years or more and it extends the age a person can be in DJJ's custody from 21 to 22.

Right now, there are about 5,000 juvenile offenders in the state's system charged as adults.

Tennessee asking for first Medicaid Block Grant

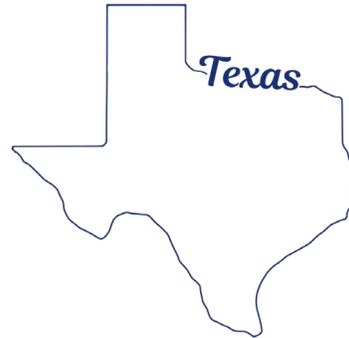
Tennessee is charging ahead to become the first state in the nation to ask for Medicaid funding in a lump sum — a radical overhaul of the entitlement program that critics warn could force major cutbacks in health coverage for low-income people.



Tennessee

- Tennessee's plan will be fiercely contested by the health care industry and low-income advocacy groups as the state negotiates with the Trump administration. If the administration approves the plan — the review process will likely take months — litigation seems inevitable.
- More than 1.3 million people are enrolled in Tennessee's Medicaid program, known as TennCare, and the state is one of 14 that has not joined Obamacare's Medicaid expansion for low-income adults.
- The federal government on average covers about two-thirds of Medicaid costs in Tennessee, with the state covering the rest. That's slightly higher than the nationwide average Medicaid reimbursement rate paid by the feds.

Full Day Pre-K Funding



Texas

The Legislature provided funding for full-day pre-k as part of a significant new infusion of funding into public education. Along with other important childcare safety legislation, lawmakers passed bills that our team championed to improve nutrition and active play opportunities in child care and to collect the data necessary to understand how better child-caregiver ratios in childcare can improve kids' safety and school readiness.

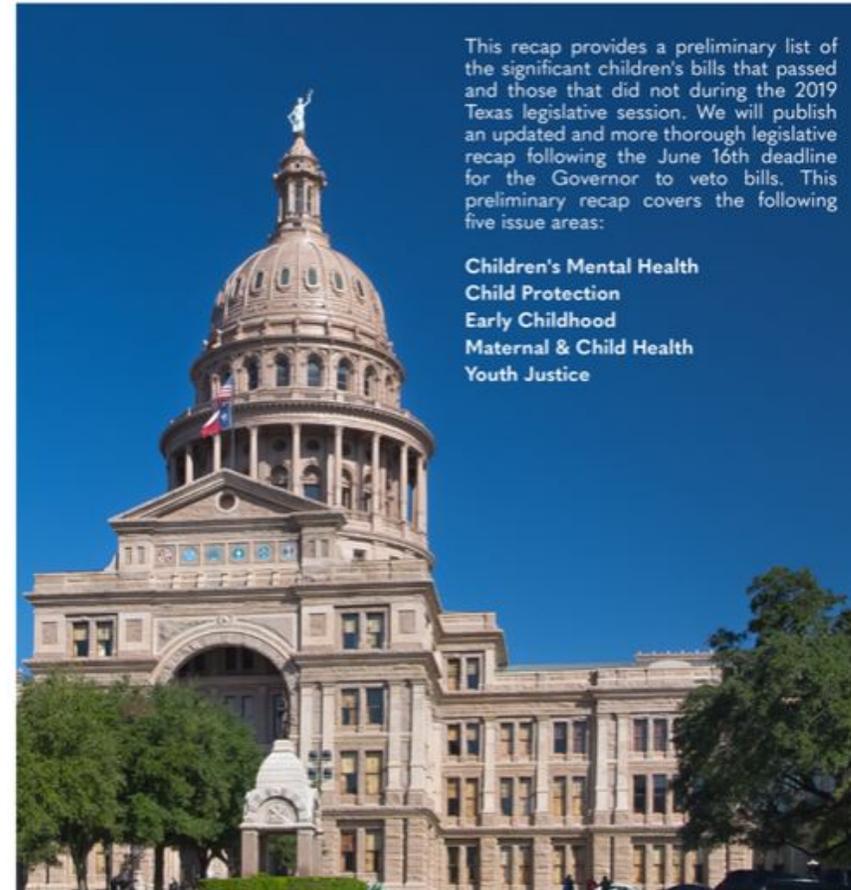
A PRELIMINARY RECAP OF KEY CHILDREN'S BILLS FROM THE 2019 TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION



May 27, 2019

DID THE LEGE PASS THAT BILL?

**A PRELIMINARY RECAP OF KEY CHILDREN'S BILLS
FROM THE 2019 TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

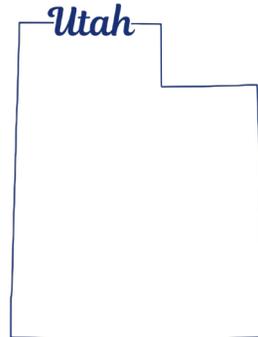


This recap provides a preliminary list of the significant children's bills that passed and those that did not during the 2019 Texas legislative session. We will publish an updated and more thorough legislative recap following the June 16th deadline for the Governor to veto bills. This preliminary recap covers the following five issue areas:

Children's Mental Health
Child Protection
Early Childhood
Maternal & Child Health
Youth Justice

Medicaid Waiver

Public comments
can be submitted
to [Utah Dept of
Health-Medicaid](#)



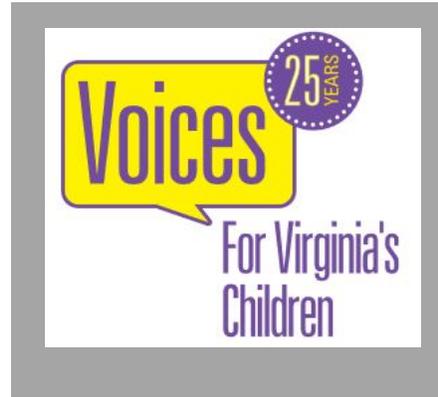
Utah

The Utah Department of Medicaid released its much-anticipated proposal for a Section 1115 Medicaid waiver seeking a “per capita cap” – or a limit on federal spending – on major portions of its Medicaid program.

Capping the federal funding for Medicaid means that state taxpayers will face greater risks of rising health care costs and will result in more pressure on state budgets.

The state is taking public comments on the proposal before submitting a formal waiver submission. **The state’s public comment period is open until June 30, 2019.**

Blog on
Children's Mental
Health proposed
legislation: [2019
session](#)



Virginia

**Mental Health Instruction in
Schools – [SB 1440 \(McClellan\)](#) and [HB
2593 \(Rodman\)](#)**

This legislation directs the Board of Education to review and update the health Standards of Learning for students in all grades to include mental health.

- *SB 1140 status: Passed the Senate 40-0; Reported from Education (22-Y 0-N); Referred to committee on appropriations; House appropriations elementary and secondary subcommittee laid bill on table (8-Y 0-N)*
- *HB 2593 status: Passed the subcommittee and reported to appropriations; House Appropriations laid bill on table 6-Y 2-N*

Wisconsin Budget Proposals



Fully Expanding BadgerCare - eligibility to 138% of the federal poverty level



Removing Barriers to Access Services that Support Health Care and Nutrition



Increased Rates for Behavioral Health Services



More Funding for Caregivers



Substantially increases funding for hospitals that serve patients enrolled in Medicaid



Proposes that the state pays part of the costs of Medicaid crisis intervention services



Ensure that children with disabilities who are eligible for the children's long-term support program receive services without being placed on a waiting list.



The budget invests \$28 million to support maternal and infant health, specifically aimed at addressing racial disparities in infant and maternal health