



The Children's Hospital

The mission of The Children's Hospital is to improve the health of children through the provision of high quality, coordinated programs of patient care, education, research, and advocacy.

One of the easiest ways we can all work together to advocate on behalf of children is to make informed choices about who we elect into public office to represent the interests of Colorado children and families. What follows are some ideas compiled by the public affairs staff and members of our Grassroots Advocacy Network for questions to pose to candidates and/or elected officials. For more information, please visit www.thechildrenshospital.org/advocacy.

**Be a
Voice
for Kids
in the 2008 Election!**

Suggested Talking Points When Meeting with Candidates and Elected Officials

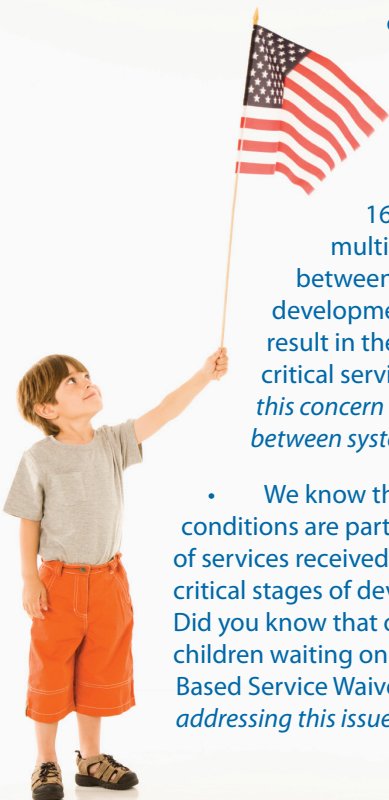
Access to Health Care

- There are more than 175,000 children¹ in Colorado without health insurance. We know that kids who have health insurance have better access to regular primary and preventive care, resulting in better health outcomes and lower costs to society. *Do you have ideas for how we can ensure more children are insured?*
- There are an estimated 100,000 children² who are eligible for publicly funded health insurance programs like Medicaid and CHP+ but are not enrolled. *How can Colorado do a better job of reaching out to these families?*

Developmental Disabilities

- It is estimated that 2% of all children are born with a developmental condition. The number of children in Colorado who are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder is growing at a startling rate – one in every 169 children. Children with multiple needs are often caught between systems (medical, mental, developmental, educational) which can result in them going without or waiting for critical services. *What will you do to address this concern regarding lack of coordination between systems at both a state and local level?*

- We know that children with developmental conditions are particularly impacted by the timing of services received because they are going through critical stages of development during childhood. Did you know that our state has close to 900 children waiting on three Home and Community Based Service Waivers³? *What ideas do you have for addressing this issue?*



Child Abuse Prevention

- The Children's Hospital has informed us that child abuse was the number one cause of trauma death to children admitted to the hospital for the past three years. *How can we work together as a community to provide critical family education and supports to prevent child abuse from happening?*

Injury Prevention

- Preventable injuries are the number one cause of injury and death for children across Colorado, as well as the United States. Children are more likely to be buckled up when the driver is buckled up. *Would you support a bill to make not wearing a seat belt in the state of Colorado a primary offense rather than a secondary offense?*

Pediatric Research

- Pediatric research is paramount to many Colorado families; in some cases it is their only hope for their child's survival. *What will you do to preserve and increase the funding of pediatric medical research in Colorado?*

And, don't forget to VOTE!

- Visit the Colorado Secretary of State website: www.sos.state.co.us to register to vote online or download election information.

More Information

The following websites offer helpful information about candidates and elected officials:

www.capwiz.com/tchden

www.vote-smart.org

www.leg.state.co.us

¹ Kaiser Family Foundation ² Estimates of Colorado's Uninsured Children Who are Eligible but not Enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+. Report to the SB07-211 Advisory Committee on Covering All Children by 2010. Colorado Health Institute, April 15, 2008. ³ HCBS Children's: 500 waiting, CES: 200 waiting, Autism: 160 waiting, Family Voices Colorado.