



**The Children's Hospital
Grassroots Advocacy Network**

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. For more information on how you can get involved in advocacy efforts on behalf of children, visit:
www.thechildrenshospital.org/advocacy.



The Children's Hospital

Kid's Health Annual Check-Up



Each year The Children's Hospital works to positively influence public policy decisions related to children's health and well-being. Now that the 2007 state legislative session had ended, it's time for a "check up" on how children's issues fared this session. There are many, many issues related to children that elected officials considered and that Children's followed - here are just a few of the highlights.

Children's Grassroots Advocates

"A Clean Bill of Health"

- During the 2007 session, members of The Children's Hospital Grassroots Advocacy Network made over 3,400 contacts to state legislators on various children's health and safety efforts! Thanks to each and every one of you who took the time to be a voice for kids!



Keeping Kids Safe and Healthy

"A Healthy Outlook"

- Immunization Registry Act was passed, creating improved access to childhood immunizations through the expansion of the statewide immunization registry. Additionally, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is authorized to address maximizing funds (public and private), reducing administrative barriers, identifying cost effective and efficient methods for distribution, and conducting a program assessment.
- Cervical Cancer Immunization Program was established to immunize young women against cervical cancer and provide resources for doing so.
- Motorcycle Helmet Requirement was passed, requiring youth under the age of 18 years to wear a helmet when operating or riding as a passenger on a motorcycle or motorized bicycle.

"Follow Up Visit Recommended"

- For the third year in a row, Colorado failed to pass primary safety belt legislation, which would have made it a primary of-

fense to not buckle up in a motor vehicle. The failed measure also would have enhanced Colorado's booster seat law to better align with best practices in terms of height, weight, and age requirements.



Enhancing Access to Quality Health Care for Children & Families

"A Healthy Outlook"

- Medical Home for Children legislation passed, directing the state to develop systems and standards to maximize the number of Colorado children enrolled in public health insurance programs who have a medical home. It also defines "medical home" as primary care practice that provides continuous, accessible, and comprehensive medical and non-medical services to a child and their family.
- Passage of "Health Care for Children" act, designed to improve access to health care for children. Components included measures designed to remove enrollment barriers for children eligible for public health insurance programs such as Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+), establish an advisory committee for Medicaid and CHP+ eligibility and enrollment, and enhance quality measures and reporting surrounding these programs.
- Coordinated Payment System for Early Intervention Services was established, requiring that the state develop and implement a coordinated system of payment (public and private funds) for early intervention services for children from birth to age three who have developmental disabilities or delays.

- Mandatory health insurance coverage was expanded to require coverage for mental disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, post-traumatic stress, anxiety, and substance abuse.

"Follow Up Visit Recommended"

- There is much more work to be done in the realm of expanding access to health care for children. The Children's Hospital is committed to continuing our work with community partners, as well as the Colorado General Assembly, to identify opportunities to improve quality, enhance eligibility for and enrollment in health coverage plans, and strengthen Colorado's health care provider network.



Ensuring a Strong Provider Network for Consumers

"A Healthy Outlook"

- Allocation of funds from tobacco litigation settlement moneys will go towards health care programs and providers in the realm of mental health, substance abuse prevention, indigent care, children's health care, and medical education and training.

"Showing Signs of Improvement"

- Increased Medicaid Provider Reimbursement for The Children's Hospital (\$8.4 million) will assist Children's in absorbing annual losses of over \$50 million related to inadequate Medicaid reimbursement.



The Children's Hospital