

## 2011 Missouri Policy Agenda

### HEALTH

*All children have access to quality, affordable health care services to meet their medical, dental, vision, and mental health needs.*

#### **Children's Health Insurance**

Support legislation that mandates strategies to enroll currently eligible children in MO HealthNet for Kids.

#### **Childhood Obesity**

Promote active living lifestyles and healthy eating by supporting state and local policies that improve access to fresh foods and school based nutrition services.

#### **Coordinated Care**

Support increasing access to medical services for children in rural areas through coordinated care expansions.

#### **Protect Critical Funding for:**

- Children's mental health services.
- Youth tobacco prevention and cessation programs.
- Medicaid reimbursement rates.
- Presumptive Eligibility in children's health coverage.

### EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

*All families have access to high quality, affordable early care and education opportunities that enable children to start school prepared for success and help parents advance and be productive in the workforce.*

#### **Child Care Assistance**

Protect the state's eligibility level for child care assistance at 127% of the Federal Poverty Level.

#### **Background Checks**

Support legislation requiring national fingerprint background checks for all individuals who work, volunteer, or reside in a child care program or home.

#### **Parents as Teachers**

Protect current funding for the Parents as Teachers program.

#### **Pre-K**

Support access to quality, voluntary pre-k opportunities that prepare children for success in school and life.

### SAFETY & SECURITY

*All children avoid risky behaviors and are safe in their homes and communities from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.*

#### **Foster/Adoptive Parent Recruitment and Retention**

Support legislation that creates a fund to disperse funds directed towards programs that recruit and retain foster/adoptive parents for hard-to-place children.

#### **Protect Critical Funding for:**

- Foster care reimbursement rates and adoption subsidies.
- Child abuse prevention programs.

### K-12 EDUCATION

*All children receive the necessary services and supports to succeed in school, graduate on time, and are prepared for post-secondary career and educational opportunities.*

#### **Summer School**

Protect funding for summer school programs that target at-risk youth.

### STATE BUDGET & FINANCE

*Missouri's lawmakers prioritize children as a critical investment by including adequate resources for children's health, education, and well-being in the state budget.*

#### **Tax Policy**

Support a streamlined sales tax policy that ensures Missouri's long-term economic success.

#### **TABOR**

Oppose additional constitutional and statutory limitations on spending, including the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR).

#### **Tax Equity**

Oppose tax policies that adversely affect Missouri's middle and low-income families.

