

TAKE ACTION: Restore MO Child Care Funding!

Call House Budget Chair Allen Icet and YOUR State Representative if s/he sits on the House Budget Committee by March 17th.

Ask them to restore a \$46 million cut to MO child care funding.

Rep. Allen Icet: 573-751-1247

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS & CAPITOL PHONE #S:

Rachel Bringer (D-6): 573-751-9818
Mark Bruns (R-113): 573-751-0665
Chris Carter (D-61): 573-751-7605
Mike Cunningham (R-145): 573-751-3819
Shalonn "KiKi" Curls (D-41): 573-751-3158
Mike Dethrow (R-153): 573-751-1066
Sally Faith (R-15): 573-751-1452
Tom Flanigan (R-127): 573-751-5458
Belinda Harris (D-110): 573-751-2398
Steve Hobbs (R-21): 573-751-9458
Denny Hoskins (R-121): 573-751-4302
Leonard Hughes (D-42): 573-751-1501
Jason Kander (D-44): 573-751-2437
Chris Kelly (D-24): 573-751-4189

Sam Komo (D-90): 573-751-6625
Sara Lampe (D-138): 573-751-1460
Rebecca McClanahan (D-2): 573-751-4042
James Morris (D-58): 573-751-2383
Martin Rucker (D-29): 573-751-9460
David Sater (R-68): 573-751-1480
Robert Schaaf (R-28): 573-751-2183
Dwight Scharnhorst (R-93): 573-751-4392
Charles Schlottach (R-111): 573-751-6668
Ryan Silvey (R-38): 573-751-5282
Rachel Storch (D-64): 573-751-1400
Rick Stream, *Vice Chair* (R-94): 573-751-4069
Mike Thomson (R-4): 573-751-9465
Jay Wasson (R-141): 573-751-1503

Look up your State Representative at: http://www.senate.mo.gov/lookup/leg_lookup.aspx

SAMPLE PHONE MESSAGE TO LEGISLATOR:

- Hi, my name is [name] – I'm a [parent, child care provider, constituent, MO voter] from [city]. Can I speak with Rep. _____ ?
- I'm calling to urge you to support restoring a \$7.4 million cut to child care in the House budget. This cut will force Missouri to give back over \$38 million in federal economic recovery funding and thousands of families will lose child care assistance.
- *Include any additional information on how these cuts will impact you, your family, or your child care program personally.*
- [If speaking to Rep] Will you vote to support restoring this critical funding for child care?
- [If leaving a message] I hope you'll help restore this critical funding that keeps Missouri families working and children learning. My phone # is _____ if you have any questions. Thank you!

BACKGROUND:

- On Feb 16th, the MO House Appropriations Committee on Health, Mental Health, & Social Services recommended a \$13.7 million cut from the FY '11 budget for child care. On March 4, the House Budget Committee reduced this cut to \$7.4 million. This is still an 11.3% cut to state funding that helps low-income families afford the child care they need to go to work every day.
- Unfortunately, this budget cut also means that Missouri will have to turn away \$38.7 million in federal stimulus funds directed toward child care programs and services.
- **That's a total of over \$46 million lost that will force Missouri to cut eligibility for child care assistance, even though we already rank 49th lowest in the country.**
- The House Budget Committee will be working on the FY'11 budget starting March 15th. Budget Chairman Allen Ictet and members of the House Budget Committee need to hear from constituents and advocates that child care funding should be restored.

IMPACT:

- Income eligibility will be reduced from 127% to 107% of federal poverty.
- Transitional assistance will be cut from 139% to 119% FPL.
- 3,700 kids will lose child care assistance.
- Reimbursement rates will be drastically reduced for providers serving a majority of subsidized children, forcing programs to close or turn away low-income families.
- MO will turn down \$38.7 million in federal stimulus funding that would have supported quality improvement grants, early childhood teacher professional development, and assistance for unemployed parents trying to return to the workforce.

SAMPLE LETTER TO LEGISLATOR:

Dear Representative _____,

As a Missouri voter and an advocate for children and families, I am disappointed with the recent decision in the House to cut \$7.4 million from the budget for child care.

This 11% cut to general revenue for child care will also disqualify Missouri from using over \$38 million in federal stimulus funding. If Missouri has to send this money back to the federal government, 3,700 children will lose access to child care assistance. Families in other states will benefit instead of keeping Missouri tax dollars in Missouri.

A \$46 million total cut to child care would have a devastating impact on programs, families, and children. Missouri's eligibility for child care assistance is already one of the lowest in the nation. We hear too many stories of parents turning down raises or better jobs because they cannot afford to pay for child care if they become ineligible for child care assistance. Even worse, young children are left in dangerous situations because families have no other options. Families cannot work without child care, making this funding critical for Missouri's economic recovery.

Missouri can no longer cut our way out of this unprecedented budget crisis. It's time to strengthen our state's revenue options rather than approve cuts that would further weaken Missouri families and the potential of our next generation. I urge you to prioritize Missouri's children in the budget process and work to restore this funding for child care.

Take Action Online at: <http://tiny.cc/mochildcare0210>