

WHO'S FOR KIDS AND WHO'S JUST KIDDING?

A 2013 Legislative Wrap-Up and Report Card for Kids

July 2013



Children's Action Alliance (CAA) is an independent voice for Arizona children at the state capitol and in the community. With thousands of dedicated Arizonans across the state, we work to build momentum for improvements in child care and early education, juvenile justice, health coverage, protection from abuse and neglect, and family income so kids can grow up healthy and strong.

Each year, the 90 members of our state legislature vote on dozens of bills that shape the education, health and safety of Arizona children and families. Governor Brewer shapes issues with her policy priorities, budget proposals and her veto or signature on bills.

This report card tracks six votes in the Senate and in the House of Representatives in 2013.

During the legislative

session, Children's Action Alliance analyzed and took a stand on each of these bills, asking lawmakers to vote "yes" or "no" for kids.

CAA believes that every lawmaker has the responsibility to vote for kids. And our legislators should be held accountable and measured on their performance.

In the chart, a ★ is shown for each vote for kids that corresponds to our recommendation. A "NV" for "not voting" indicates that the legislator did not vote or was absent. If the legislator cast a vote contrary to what's best for kids, the vote box is left blank.

"NV" votes are not counted in the legislator's overall percentage score.

Arizona's Children Need YOUR Voice!

Children can't vote. It's up to you to be their voice in the halls of power.

You can make a difference by contacting your own state senator and representatives and asking them to vote for kids. Talk with them about policies you support for children and families.

You can help Children's Action Alliance remain a strong voice for children by joining our action network or by making a tax-deductible donation. To learn more, visit www.azchildren.org.

THE 2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

With leadership from Governor Brewer, a bipartisan majority of state lawmakers gave attention to critical issues for Arizona's children and families this legislative session. Emergency funding for Child Protective Services (CPS), improvements in licensing procedures for foster families, and stronger protection and accountability for abused and neglected children passed both houses with unanimous support.

Republican lawmakers were divided on the issue of restoration of Medicaid health coverage, but there was widespread agreement on critical funding for CPS and K-12 education. The adopted budget includes new staff and resources to protect abused and neglected children, funding for child care assistance, and modest stipends for grandparents who are raising their grandkids. One of the basic funding formulas for public schools has been fully funded for the first time in several years.

These policies set the foundation for next year. Together we can keep the focus on children and families and continue to improve children's health, education, and security.

HB 2502 – CPS Supplemental Appropriation

Supported by CAA, this bill passed the House and Senate and was signed by Governor Brewer.

Child Protective Services, the state agency responsible for protecting children from abuse and neglect, has long been understaffed and underfunded. After past budget cuts and many months of dangerous trends for abused and neglected children, lawmakers took action. In the first three days of the session, legislators passed unanimously and Governor Brewer signed \$4.4 million in emergency funds for 50 new CPS staff.

HB 2074 – Foster Home Licensing

Supported by CAA, this bill passed the House and Senate and was signed by Governor Brewer.



With the number of kids in foster care at an all-time high of over 14,000 children and a shortage of foster families, HB 2074 will help reduce administrative burdens so more children can be in safe and caring homes. Sponsored by Representative Warren Petersen, this legislation allows for a two year foster home license rather than every year, freeing up limited staff resources to recruit and support new foster families. HB 2074 also allows foster families to accept more foster children than approved if a foster child has or will have siblings in the home, has previously lived with that foster family or is a kinship placement for the foster home.

SB 1375 – CPS/Behavioral Health Services

Supported by CAA, this bill passed the House and Senate and was signed by Governor Brewer.

Thanks to determined leadership from Representative Kate Brophy McGee and Senator Nancy Barto, SB 1375 strengthens protection of abused and neglected children and improves accountability. It requires

THE 2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

the Department of Economic Security to develop an alternative response plan for some reports of abuse and neglect in order to help families and to target CPS resources where they are needed most. It continues the legislative CPS oversight committee and requires specific reports and recommendations on behavioral health services for children in foster care. It clarifies the role of the Office of Child Welfare Investigations in responding to reports of child abuse and neglect involving criminal conduct and allows reports of abuse and neglect to be submitted electronically.

SB 1208 – Foster Youth Tuition Waiver

Supported by CAA, this bill passed the House and Senate and was signed by Governor Brewer.

Fewer than 3% of teens who turn 18 in foster care go on to graduate college, leaving them behind their peers in career opportunities. In an effort to make college more accessible, SB 1208 waives tuition payments (after available federal and state tuition assistance grants are applied) for teens who are enrolled in community college or a state university. Youth who were in foster care at age 16 can qualify for this five year pilot program sponsored by Senator Adam Driggs.



HB 2001 (Special Session) – Fiscal Year 2014 Budget

Supported by CAA, the budget passed the House and Senate and was signed by Governor Brewer.

After years of deep cuts to health and education for vulnerable children and families, the Arizona legislature passed a budget that was a step in the right direction. Despite fierce opposition from legislative leadership to Medicaid funding, lawmakers passed a budget that:

- funds a monthly \$75 stipend for qualified grandparents raising their grandchildren
- adds \$82 million for classroom costs in K-12 education
- adds \$5 million to strengthen families and prevent the need for foster care
- restores and expands Medicaid coverage for adults without children in the home
- adds 22 legal staff and 150 staff at CPS
- provides \$4 million for CPS Support Services such as parent aide and substance abuse treatment
- funds \$9 million for child care assistance

HB 2147 – Unemployment Benefits Eligibility

Opposed by CAA, this bill passed the House and Senate and was signed by Governor Brewer.

This bill creates misleading bureaucratic requirements for workers who follow the rules and qualify for unemployment benefits. It shifts the burden of proof to unemployed workers to produce documents proving they qualify, instead of requiring businesses to provide the information.

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS!

Stipend Passes for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

More than 60,000 children in Arizona today are being raised by their grandparents who step up to care for children when parents can't because of illness, addiction, domestic violence, incarceration or other family crises. Grandparents can keep their families together with love, healing and stability. But a lot of grandparents who take on these unexpected and expensive family responsibilities struggle with financial challenges, health issues and meeting the special needs of their grandchildren. If they fall into crisis, our whole community suffers. Budget cuts during the last few years have hit these families hard.

This year, things began to shift and the Arizona legislature voted YES for grandparents and grandchildren. SB 1090, with a modest monthly stipend for qualified grandparents raising their grandchildren, passed the Senate with only one "no" vote and passed the first vote in the full House. As time got short to finalize the bill, the funding and direction for the stipends were added to the state budget with support from a majority of legislators and Governor Brewer.

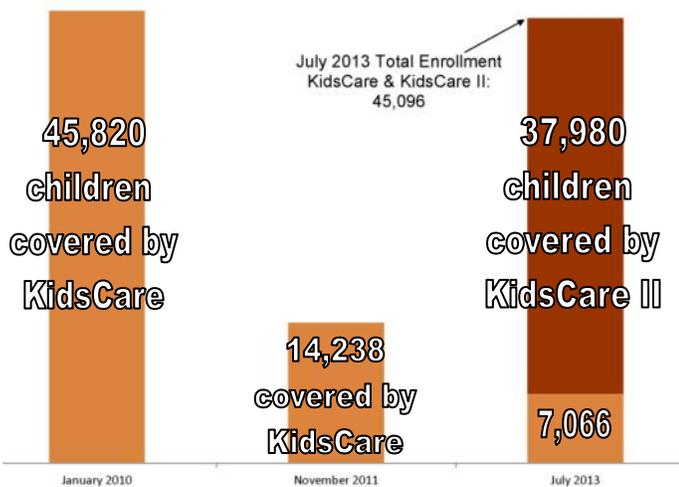
Many thanks to Senator Leah Landrum Taylor and to so many Representatives and Senators from both parties. We look forward to working with the Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors, the Department of Economic Security, and state lawmakers on putting these stipends into action and taking more steps to reach grandparents and grandkids.

Don't know your district?



Go to www.azchildren.org and click on the TAKE ACTION tab.

Children's Health Coverage Improving but in Transition



The number of kids covered by KidsCare plummeted when Governor Brewer and the state legislature closed KidsCare to any new applicants in January 2010. Thanks to hospital funds contributed through local governments and federal matching funds, thousands of children now have coverage through KidsCare II.

Children's Action Alliance is working with partners throughout the state to help families apply. KidsCare II will end in January 2014, and CAA will work with community partners and the state to transition children either into Medicaid or the new Health Exchange/Marketplace.

State Senator	CPS Funding (HB 2502)	Foster Homes (HB 2074)	CPS (SB 1375)	Tuition Waivers (SB 1208)	State Budget (HB 2001)	Unemployment (HB 2147)	2013 Grade for Kids
Ed Ableser (LD 26 - Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Nancy Barto (LD 15 - North Phoenix)	★	★	★	★			67%
Andy Biggs (LD 12 - Gilbert)	★	★	★	★			67%
David Bradley (LD 10 - East, Central Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Judy Burges (LD 22 - Surprise, Sun City West)	NV	★	★				40%
Olivia Cajero Bedford (LD 3 - West Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Rich Crandall (LD 16 - Apache Junction, East Mesa)	NV	★	★	★	★		80%
Chester Crandell (LD 6 - Sedona, Flagstaff, Snowflake)	★	★	★	★			67%
Adam Driggs (LD 28 - North East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★		83%
Steve Farley (LD 9 - midtown Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Steve Gallardo (LD 29 - West Phoenix, Glendale)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Gail Griffin (LD 14 - Southeast Arizona)	★	★	★				50%
Katie Hobbs (LD 24 - Central and East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Jack Jackson, Jr. (LD 7 - Northeast Arizona)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Leah Landrum Taylor (LD 27 - South Phoenix)	★	★	★	NV	★	★	100%
Linda Lopez (LD 2 - South Tucson, Santa Cruz County)	★	★	★	NV	★	★	100%
John McComish (LD 18 - Ahwatukee, Chandler, S. Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★		83%
Barbara McGuire (LD 8 - Pinal County)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Al Melvin (LD 11 - Marana, Oro Valley)	★	★	★	★			67%
Robert Meza (LD 30 - West Central Phoenix)	★	★	★	NV	★	★	100%
Rick Murphy (LD 21 - Peoria, Sun City)	★	★	NV	NV	NV		67%
Lynne Pancrazi (LD 4 - S. Yuma County & W. Pima County)	★	★	★	★	★	NV	100%
Steve Pierce (LD 1 - Anthem, Yavapai County)	★	★	★	★	★		83%
Michelle Reagan (LD 23 - Scottsdale, Fountain Hills)	★	★	★	★	★		83%
Don Shooter (LD 13 - N. Yuma County, W. Maricopa County)	★	★	★	★			67%
Anna Tovar (LD 19 - Avondale, Tolleson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Kelli Ward (LD 5 - La Paz & Mohave Counties)	★	★	★	★			67%
Bob Worsley (LD 25 - Mesa)	★	★	★	★	★		83%
Steve Yarbrough (LD 17 - Chandler)	★	★	★	★			67%
Kimberly Yee (LD 20 - Northwest Phoenix)	★	★	★	★			67%

★ = a vote for kids

blank = no vote for kids

NV = not voting or absent

State Representative	CPS Funding (HB 2502)	Foster Homes (HB 2074)	CPS (SB 1375)	Tuition Waivers (SB 1208)	State Budget (HB 2001)	Unemployment (HB 2147)	2013 Grade for Kids
John Allen (LD 15 - North Phoenix)	★	★	★	★			67%
Lela Alston (LD 24 - Central and East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Brenda Barton (LD 6 - Sedona, Flagstaff, Snowflake)	★	★	★	★			67%
Sonny Borrelli (LD 5 - La Paz & Mohave Counties)	★	★	★				50%
Paul Boyer (LD 20 - Northwest Phoenix)	★	★	★	★			67%
Kate Brophy McGee (LD 28 - North East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★		83%
Chad Campbell (LD 24 - Central and East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Mark Cardenas (LD 19 - Avondale, Tolleson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Heather Carter (LD 15 - North Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★		83%
Doug Coleman (LD 16 - Apache Junction, East Mesa)	★	★	★	★	★		83%
Lupe Contreras (LD 19 - Avondale, Tolleson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Andrea Dalessandro (LD 2 - S. Tucson, Santa Cruz County)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Jeff Dial (LD 18 - Ahwatukee, Chandler, S. Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★		83%
Juan Carlos Escamilla (LD 4 - S. Yuma & W. Pima Counties)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Karen Fann (LD 1 - Anthem, Yavapai County)	★	★	★	★			67%
Eddie Farnsworth (LD 12 - Gilbert)	★	★	★				50%
Tom Forese (LD 17 - Chandler)	★	★	★	NV			60%
Rosanna Gabaldón (LD 2 - S. Tucson, Santa Cruz County)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Ruben Gallego (LD 27 - South Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Sally Ann Gonzales (LD 3 - West Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Doris Goodale (LD 5 - La Paz & Mohave Counties)	★	★	★	★	★		83%
David M. Gowan, Sr. (LD 14 - Southeast Arizona)	★	★	★				50%
Rick Gray (LD 21 - Peoria, Sun City)	★	★	★	★			67%
Albert Hale (LD 7 - Northeast Arizona)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Lydia Hernández (LD 29 - West Phoenix, Glendale)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
John Kavanagh (LD 23 - Scottsdale, Fountain Hills)	★	★	★	★			67%
Adam Kwasman (LD 11 - Marana, Oro Valley)	★	★	★	★			67%
Jonathan Larkin (LD 30 - West Central Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Debbie Lesko (LD 21 - Peoria, Sun City)	★	★	★	★			67%
David Livingston (LD 22 - Surprise, Sun City West)	★	★	★	★			67%

★ = a vote for kids

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State Representative	CPS Funding (HB 2502)	Foster Homes (HB 2074)	CPS (SB 1375)	Tuition Waivers (SB 1208)	State Budget (HB 2001)	Unemployment (HB 2147)	2013 Grade for Kids
Phil Lovas (LD 22 - Surprise, Sun City West)	★	★	★	★			67%
Stefanie Mach (LD 10 - East, Central Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Debbie McCune Davis (LD 30 - West Central Phoenix)	★	★	★	NV	★	★	100%
Juan Mendez (LD 26 - Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
J.D. Mesnard (LD 17 - Chandler)	★	★	★	★			67%
Eric Meyer (LD 28 - North East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Catherine H. Miranda (LD 27 - South Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Darin Mitchell (LD 13 - N. Yuma & W. Maricopa Counties)	★	★	★	★		NV	80%
Steve Montenegro (LD 13 - N. Yuma & W. Maricopa Counties)	★	★	NV				40%
Justin Olson (LD 25 - Mesa)	★	★	★	★			67%
Ethan Orr (LD 9 - midtown Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★		83%
Lisa Otondo (LD 4 - S. Yuma & W. Pima Counties)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Jamescita Peshlakai (LD 7 - Northeast Arizona)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Warren Petersen (LD 12 - Gilbert)	★	★	★				50%
Justin Pierce (LD 25 - Mesa)	★	★	★	★		NV	80%
Frank Pratt (LD 8 - Pinal County)	★	★	★	★	★		83%
Martin J. Quezada (LD 29 - West Phoenix, Glendale)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Bob Robson (LD 18 - Ahwatukee, Chandler, S. Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★		83%
Macario Saldate, IV (LD 3 - West Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Carl Seel (LD 20 - Northwest Phoenix)	★	★	★				50%
Andrew Sherwood (LD 26 - Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
T.J. Shope (LD 8 - Pinal County)	★	★	★	★	★		83%
Steve Smith (LD 11 - Marana, Oro Valley)	★	★	NV				40%
Victoria Steele (LD 9 - midtown Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
David W. Stevens (LD 14 - Southeast Arizona)	★	★	★				50%
Bob Thorpe (LD 6 - Sedona, Flagstaff, Snowflake)	★	★	★				50%
Andy Tobin (LD 1 - Anthem, Yavapai County)	★	★	★	★			67%
Kelly Townsend (LD 16 - Apache Junction, East Mesa)	★	NV	★	★			60%
Michelle Ugenti (LD 23 - Scottsdale, Fountain Hills)	★	★	★	★			67%
Bruce Wheeler (LD 10 - East, Central Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%

★ = a vote for kids

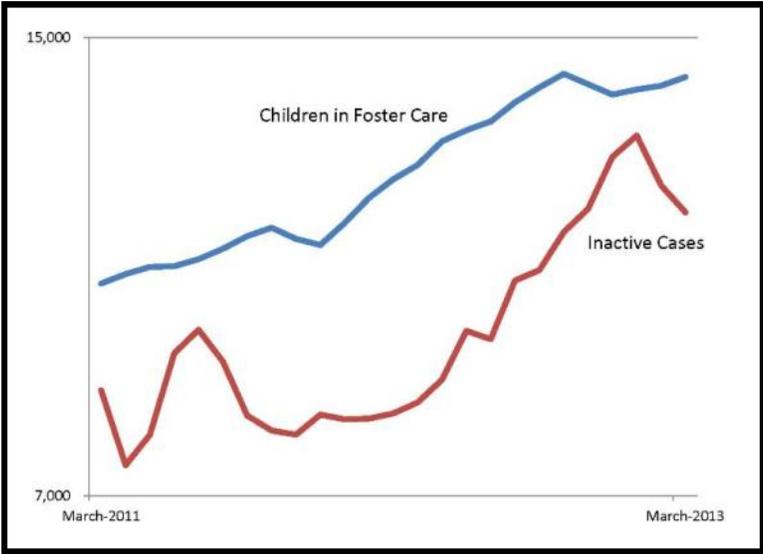
blank = no vote for kids

NV = not voting or absent

Child Protective Services Overwhelmed in AZ

From 2009 to 2013, state funding for Child Protective Services (CPS) rose by only 1% - clearly not enough to deal with a 33% rise in the number of reports of abuse and neglect and a 34% rise in the number of children living in foster care. There are now more than 14,000 children living in foster care - enough to fill the seats in Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum! The CPS system has become so overwhelmed that basic steps for child safety take far too long or don't happen at all. Thousands of investigations stay open for months on end, leaving some children in danger. Cases stall while children wait. Foster parents struggle to get attention from CPS caseworkers. Children sleep in CPS offices because there aren't enough foster families to take them home.

This year, Governor Brewer and the state legislature stepped up with a commitment to close some of the glaring gaps in our child safety system. They added funding for more CPS staff as well as child care and substance abuse treatment to strengthen families. Lawmakers also recognize that skyrocketing growth in foster care is traumatic for children, expensive for taxpayers, and far beyond the capacity of available foster families. Giving



parents places to turn for help offers the key to safer children and stronger families in the future. Seeing this, state lawmakers built a foundation for prevention. They invested in "intensive family services" to keep more children safely at home and out of foster care. They passed legislation calling for an "alternative response" plan so families in crisis can get help in the community when a full CPS investigation isn't needed. And they improved accountability for child protection by requiring strict reporting from CPS and extending a legislative oversight committee.

The hard work is just beginning. Together with our partners and lawmakers, we must keep CPS and community networks moving in the right direction to bring foster care numbers down safely and give Arizona kids a better shot at a vibrant future.



CHILDREN'S ACTION ALLIANCE Children's Action Alliance (CAA) is an independent voice for Arizona children at the state capitol and in the community. CAA works to improve children's health, education and security through information and action.

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