



# Children's Action Alliance

*A Voice for Arizona's Children since 1988*

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

*A 2014 Legislative Wrap-Up and Report Card for Kids*

June 2014



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 seven votes in the Senate and six in the House of Representatives in 2014. During the legislative session, Children's Action Alliance analyzed and took a stand on 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](http://www.azchildren.org).

# THE 2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## **HB 2465—Income Tax Reduction**

**Opposed by CAA, this bill failed in the House.**

This bill would have pre-empted decisions about future fiscal policies by directing that any increased revenues from future Congressional action allowing sales taxes for on-line purchases would automatically cut state income taxes. This would preclude the Arizona legislature from balancing fiscal priorities at the time, such as revenue shortfalls, needs for protecting children from abuse and neglect, or responding to wildfires.

## **HB 2526—High Interest Consumer Lender Loans**

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

HB 2526 dramatically increases the cost of consumer installment loans. It raises the amount that can be loaned at the high 36% annual interest rate and doubles the origination fees that can be charged. Just like payday loans, there are no underwriting requirements to make sure that borrowers can repay the loans and they are encouraged, instead, to refinance the loan multiple times – raising the costs even higher.

## **HB 2703 Amendment—Add Child Care Funding to FY 2015 Budget Bill**



**CAA supported funding for child care assistance. Amendments to add child care funding failed in both the House and the Senate. Governor Brewer signed the budget without any additional funding for child care.**

State legislative budget cuts during the recession froze enrollment in child care assistance, dropping state funding by \$75 million and dropping the number of participating children by 22,000. As a result, working parents earning low incomes may be forced to quit their jobs or cut their work hours when they can't find affordable child care. In order to keep working, some parents leave their children in unstable or dangerous situations, such as home alone or home with an older sibling. The number of reports of child neglect grew 54% while child care was frozen. Senator Katie Hobbs proposed restoring \$25 million in funding for child care and Representative Lela Alston proposed restoring \$50 million.

## **HCR 2035—Budget Process**

**Opposed by CAA, this bill failed in the House.**

This bill would have asked voters to amend the state's constitution to require the legislature and the governor to approve a balanced budget by May 1 instead of June 30 each year. If they didn't meet the new deadline, the budget would automatically be enacted at current amounts without giving a majority of the legislature the opportunity to create a new budget for the new year.

# THE 2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## **SB 1001 and SB 1002—Special Session Department of Child Safety (DCS)**

**Supported by CAA, these bills passed the House and Senate and were signed by Governor Brewer.**

SB 1001 creates the Department of Child Safety as a stand-alone agency to protect children and strengthen families. The bill includes internal and external accountability features and a Community Advisory Board so the new agency has a process to get input and recommendations from community members working with children and families. It creates a framework to respond promptly and effectively to reports of abuse and neglect with both social work and law enforcement tools.

SB 1002 appropriates a budget for the new agency, including \$23 million to address the 14,000+ backlog of inactive cases and \$11 million to hire additional child safety staff. The budget frees up current appropriations



to child care to lift the enrollment freeze, provide child care assistance to a minimum of 8,500 children each month while their parents go to work, and create a one-in-one-out waiting list.

CAA President and CEO Dana Wolfe Naimark and Beth Rosenberg, CAA Director of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Policy, were both invited to attend the bill signing ceremony creating DCS.

## **Amendment to SB 1002 to Add Funding to DCS Budget to Prevent Abuse and Neglect**

**Supported by CAA, this amendment was adopted in the Senate, but it was reversed because of opposition from House Speaker Tobin and Senate President Biggs.**

This amendment would have appropriated \$3 million for effective family support services to prevent future backlogs and to help reverse the growing trends in child abuse and neglect and children in foster care. It included: \$1 million to make a monthly stipend of \$75 available to more grandchildren being raised by their grandparents, \$1 million for substance abuse treatment for parents, and \$1 million to allow more children in working families to participate in child care assistance.

## **SB 1310—Common Core Prohibition**

**Opposed by CAA, this bill failed in the Senate.**

This bill would have blocked ongoing implementation of Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards for K-12 education. It also would have required Arizona to withdraw from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, limiting options for new student assessment tools.

# THE 2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

**SB 1346—Grandparent Stipend for Dependent Children**  
**Supported by CAA, this bill passed the Senate and was not considered in the House.**

This bill would have added funding to provide a modest \$75 monthly stipend for children being raised by qualified grandparents named as guardians in probate or juvenile court. When parents can't take care of children due to illness, substance abuse or other reasons, children can thrive with the love and care of family. But dealing with the unexpected large costs and responsibilities can be overwhelming for grandparents and lead to further family crisis.

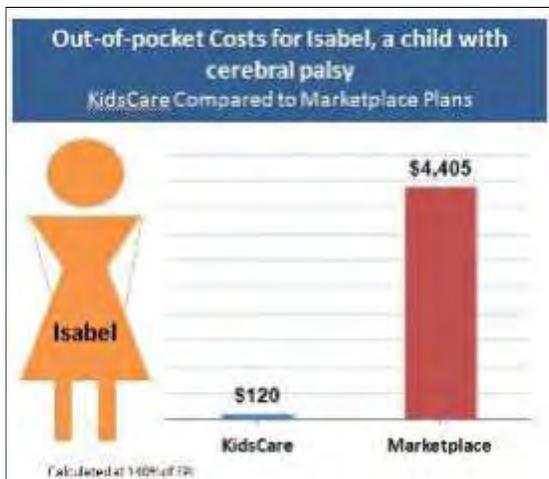
**Don't know your legislative district?**



Go to [www.azchildren.org](http://www.azchildren.org) and click on the TAKE ACTION tab.

## Arizona Kids Face Barriers to Health Care

As a budget cutting strategy, Arizona froze enrollment in KidsCare health coverage effective January 2010, making Arizona the only state in the country to dismantle its KidsCare program. Many Arizonans have wondered whether losing KidsCare matters for children's health care, since children can now get covered through Marketplace plans. Of the 120,000 people in Arizona who signed up for a Marketplace plan during the open enrollment period, 26,000 or 21% were kids under 18.



Despite that strong start in the Marketplace, a new analysis by CAA and the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families shows that losing KidsCare matters a lot. Compared to KidsCare, the new Marketplace plans have much higher out-of-pocket costs that will make health care unaffordable for many working families. Even with subsidies, children with special health care needs, like autism, cancer, and cerebral palsy will face substantial costs that could be 35 times higher than their costs for KidsCare and exceed 15% of their family's income. The study also points to additional barriers to children's health care, including extra expenses for stand-alone dental plans, a lack of pediatric

specialists, limits on certain needed benefits, and needy families who are locked out of federal subsidies.

Arizona's high rate of children without health insurance could get even higher. In the coming year, CAA will be engaging policymakers and health care leaders to find practical ways to cut down the barriers to children's health care in Arizona, especially for children with special health care needs. If we do nothing, it is clear that thousands of children will go without the care they need to be healthy in school and in life.

State Senator	HB 2526	HB 2703 Amend- ment	SB 1001	SB 1002	SB 1002 Amend- ment	SB 1310	SB1346	2014 Grade for Kids
Ed Ableser (LD 26 - Tempe)	★	★	★	★	NV	★	★	100%
Nancy Barto (LD 15 - North Phoenix)			★	★			★	43%
Carlyle Begay (LD 7 - Northeast Arizona)		★	★	★	★	★	★	86%
Andy Biggs (LD 12 - Gilbert)			★	★			★	43%
David Bradley (LD 10 - East, Central Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Judy Burges (LD 22 - Surprise, Sun City West)	★		★	★			★	57%
Olivia Cajero Bedford (LD 3 - West Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Chester Crandell (LD 6 - Sedona, Flagstaff, Snowflake)			★	★			★	43%
Andrea Dalessandro (LD 2 - S. Tucson, Santa Cruz County)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Adam Driggs (LD 28 - North East Phoenix)			★	★		★	★	57%
Steve Farley (LD 9 - Midtown Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	NV	100%
David Farnsworth (LD 16 - Apache Junction, East)			★	★			★	43%
Steve Gallardo (LD 29 - West Phoenix, Glendale)	NV	★	★	★	★	★	NV	100%
Gail Griffin (LD 14 - Southeast Arizona)	★		★	★				43%
Katie Hobbs (LD 24 - Central and East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Leah Landrum Taylor (LD 27 - South Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
John McComish (LD 18 - Ahwatukee, Chandler, S. Tempe)			★	★	★	★	★	71%
Barbara McGuire (LD 8 - Pinal County)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Al Melvin (LD 11 - Marana, Oro Valley)			★	★			NV	33%
Robert Meza (LD 30 - West Central Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	NV	★	NV	100%
Rick Murphy (LD 21 - Peoria, Sun City)			★	★	NV		★	50%
Lynne Pancrazi (LD 4 - S. Yuma County & W. Pima)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Steve Pierce (LD 1 - Anthem, Yavapai County)			★	★	★	★		57%
Michelle Reagan (LD 23 - Scottsdale, Fountain Hills)			★	★	★	★	★	71%
Don Shooter (LD 13 - N. Yuma County, W. Maricopa)			★	★			★	43%
Anna Tovar (LD 19 - Avondale, Tolleson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Kelli Ward (LD 5 - La Paz & Mohave Counties)			★				★	29%
Bob Worsley (LD 25 - Mesa)			★	★	★	★	★	71%
Steve Yarbrough (LD 17 - Chandler)			★	★			★	43%
Kimberly Yee (LD 20 - Northwest Phoenix)			★	★			★	43%

★ = a vote for kids

blank = no vote for kids

NV = not voting or absent

State Representative	Tax reduction (HB 2465)	High Interest Loans (HB 2526)	Child Care Funds in HB 2703	Budget Process (HCR 2035)	Create DCS (SB 1001)	Fund DCS (SB 1002)	2014 Grade for Kids
John Allen (LD 15 - North Phoenix)					★	★	33%
Lela Alston (LD 24 - Central and East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Brenda Barton (LD 6 - Sedona, Flagstaff, Snowflake)					★	★	33%
Sonny Borrelli (LD 5 - La Paz & Mohave Counties)					★	★	33%
Paul Boyer (LD 20 - Northwest Phoenix)					★	★	33%
Kate Brophy McGee (LD 28 - North East Phoenix)	★			★	★	★	67%
Chad Campbell (LD 24 - Central and East Phoenix)	★	NV	★	★	★	★	100%
Mark Cardenas (LD 19 - Avondale, Tolleson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Heather Carter (LD 15 - North Phoenix)	★		NV	★	★	★	80%
Demion Clinco (LD 2 - S. Tucson, Santa Cruz County)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Doug Coleman (LD 16 - Apache Junction, East Mesa)	★			★	★	★	67%
Lupe Contreras (LD 19 - Avondale, Tolleson)	★		★	★	★	★	83%
Jeff Dial (LD 18 - Ahwatukee, Chandler, S. Tempe)	★		NV	★	★	★	80%
Juan Carlos Escamilla (LD 4 - S. Yuma & W. Pima Counties)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Karen Fann (LD 1 - Anthem, Yavapai County)					★	★	33%
Eddie Farnsworth (LD 12 - Gilbert)					★	★	33%
Tom Forese (LD 17 - Chandler)					★	★	33%
Rosanna Gabaldón (LD 2 - S. Tucson, Santa Cruz County)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Sally Ann Gonzales (LD 3 - West Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Doris Goodale (LD 5 - La Paz & Mohave Counties)	NV		NV	★	★	★	75%
David M. Gowan, Sr. (LD 14 - Southeast Arizona)					★	★	33%
Rick Gray (LD 21 - Peoria, Sun City)					★	★	33%
Albert Hale (LD 7 - Northeast Arizona)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Lydia Hernández (LD 29 - West Phoenix, Glendale)	★		★	★	★	★	83%
John Kavanagh (LD 23 - Scottsdale, Fountain Hills)					★	★	33%
Adam Kwasman (LD 11 - Marana, Oro Valley)					★	★	33%
Jonathan Larkin (LD 30 - West Central Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Debbie Lesko (LD 21 - Peoria, Sun City)					★	★	33%
David Livingston (LD 22 - Surprise, Sun City West)					★	★	33%
Phil Lovas (LD 22 - Surprise, Sun City West)					★	★	33%

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<b>Stefanie Mach</b> (LD 10 - East, Central Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
<b>Debbie McCune Davis</b> (LD 30 - West Central Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
<b>Juan Mendez</b> (LD 26 - Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
<b>J.D. Mesnard</b> (LD 17 - Chandler)					★	★	33%
<b>Eric Meyer</b> (LD 28 - North East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
<b>Catherine H. Miranda</b> (LD 27 - South Phoenix)	★		★	★	★	★	83%
<b>Darin Mitchell</b> (LD 13 - N. Yuma & W. Maricopa Counties)		NV			★	★	40%
<b>Steve Montenegro</b> (LD 13 - N. Yuma & W. Maricopa Counties)					★	★	33%
<b>Norma Muñoz</b> (LD 27 - South Phoenix)	N/A	N/A	★	N/A	★	★	100%
<b>Justin Olson</b> (LD 25 - Mesa)					★	★	33%
<b>Ethan Orr</b> (LD 9 - Midtown Tucson)	★			★	★	★	67%
<b>Lisa Otondo</b> (LD 4 - S. Yuma & W. Pima Counties)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
<b>Jamescita Peshlakai</b> (LD 7 - Northeast Arizona)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
<b>Warren Petersen</b> (LD 12 - Gilbert)					★	★	33%
<b>Justin Pierce</b> (LD 25 - Mesa)		NV		NV	★	★	50%
<b>Frank Pratt</b> (LD 8 - Pinal County)				★	★	★	50%
<b>Martin J. Quezada</b> (LD 29 - West Phoenix, Glendale)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
<b>Bob Robson</b> (LD 18 - Ahwatukee, Chandler, S. Tempe)	★			★	★	★	67%
<b>Macario Saldate, IV</b> (LD 3 - West Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
<b>Carl Seel</b> (LD 20 - Northwest Phoenix)					★	★	33%
<b>Andrew Sherwood</b> (LD 26 - Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
<b>T.J. Shope</b> (LD 8 - Pinal County)				★	★	★	50%
<b>Steve Smith</b> (LD 11 - Marana, Oro Valley)					★	★	33%
<b>Victoria Steele</b> (LD 9 - Midtown Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
<b>David W. Stevens</b> (LD 14 - Southeast Arizona)					★	★	33%
<b>Bob Thorpe</b> (LD 6 - Sedona, Flagstaff, Snowflake)					★	★	33%
<b>Andy Tobin</b> (LD 1 - Anthem, Yavapai County)					★	★	33%
<b>Kelly Townsend</b> (LD 16 - Apache Junction, East Mesa)					★	★	33%
<b>Michelle Ugenti</b> (LD 23 - Scottsdale, Fountain Hills)					★	★	33%
<b>Bruce Wheeler</b> (LD 10 - East, Central Tucson)	★		★	★	★	★	83%

★ = a vote for kids

blank = no vote for kids

NV = not voting or absent

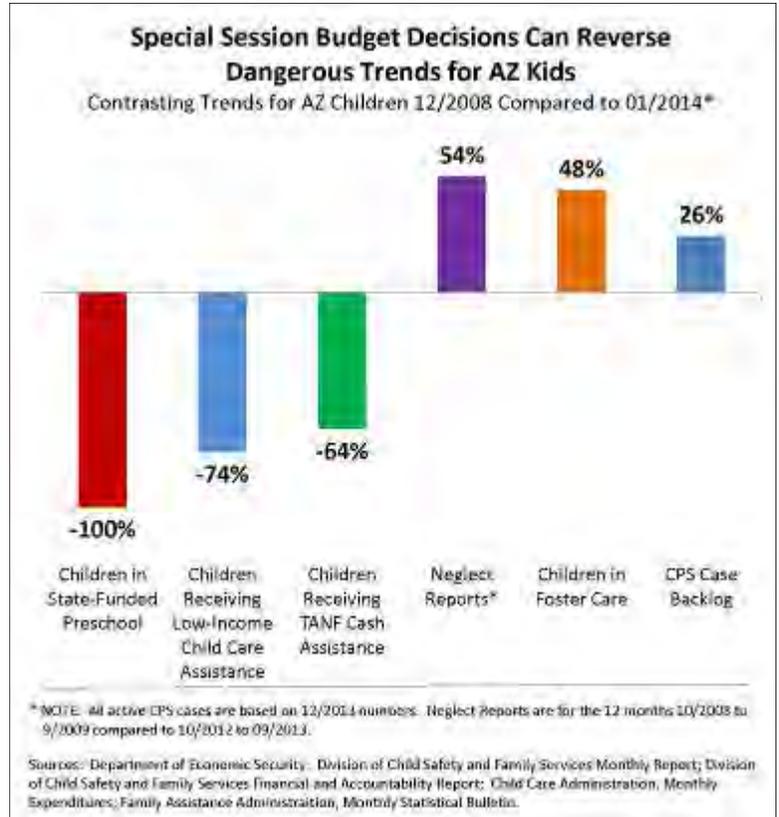
# New Arizona Department of Child Safety

When news broke in November 2013 that 6,500 reports to CPS of child abuse and neglect had not been investigated and no one knew whether those children were safe, CAA called on Governor Brewer for action.

With the help of community partners and key legislators - especially Representatives Kate Brophy McGee and Debbie McCune Davis - CAA spoke up loudly, clearly and consistently with two key requirements for child safety:

1. Increase Child Safety staffing, supervision, training, compensation, and resources to bring caseloads down and give dedicated caseworkers the chance to succeed.
2. Restore a network of prevention and early intervention services to help families before they are in crisis.

After months of strategic communication with the media, lawmakers, agency leaders and stakeholders, our leaders listened and acted. Created during a Legislative Special Session, the new Arizona Department of Child Safety is the first step to fixing the system and using a range of tools to address and prevent child abuse and neglect. See Page 3 for details on the new agency structure and budget.



During this first year we should expect to see reductions in the number of inactive cases, growth in the number of filled Child Safety positions, and reductions in the average caseloads for Child Safety staff. While there is no new funding for prevention, the freeze on child care assistance has been lifted so that more children can have safe and reliable child care while their parents go to work. The Department of Child Safety will include a division of prevention that will give the next Governor and legislature a focal point for stronger family services to reduce the trauma and extreme costs of abuse and neglect and foster care.



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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