



Children's Action Alliance

A Voice for Arizona's Children since 1988

June 2016

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

A 2016 Legislative Wrap-Up and Report Card for Kids







Arizona Lawmakers Lift the Freeze on Kidscare!




For months, Arizona business leaders, working parents, pediatricians, school board members, sheriffs and police officers, community groups, and faith-based organizations have been calling on the legislature to lift the freeze on KidsCare. At the end of the legislative session, lawmakers responded. A bipartisan majority revived KidsCare health coverage for children in working families. Together they suspended the rules in both the House and the Senate in opposition to Republican leadership and amended SB 1457 to lift the enrollment freeze on KidsCare. Governor Ducey signed the bill soon after it reached his desk.

Enrollment is expected to begin again on September 1 and over the next year some 30,000 Arizona children will have access to regular check-ups and the medications, treatments and therapies they need to grow up healthy. Arizona can finally re-join the rest of the country in providing affordable health insurance options to hard working families. We thank all the lawmakers who voted YES to give more Arizona children the opportunity for good health, no matter what their zip code.

2016 Priority Legislation Affecting Children and Families

 <p>CAA SUPPORTED</p>	<p>SB 1457: Kidscare enrollment Sponsored by Senator David Bradley</p> <p>This bill lifts the freeze on KidsCare to connect 30,000 children in working families with affordable health coverage so they can get the medications, check-ups, and therapies they need to grow up healthy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PASSED</p>
 <p>CAA OPPOSED</p>	<p>HB 2697 and SB 1528 Income Tax Cut Sponsored by Representative Steve Montenegro and Senator Andy Biggs</p> <p>This tax cut allows medium size businesses to take bigger upfront deductions for certain purchases, called “bonus depreciation.” It will reduce state revenues by \$8 million in the first year, doubling to \$16 million each year after that. While this tax cut will make it harder to develop sustainable funding for public schools, there is no evidence that it will create a single job. The Congressional Research Service reports that bonus depreciation “is largely ineffective as a policy tool for economic stimulus.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PASSED</p>
 <p>CAA SUPPORTED</p>	<p>HB 2452: TANF cash assistance for children raised by grandparents Sponsored by Representative Jeff Wening</p> <p>This bill keeps families together with financial assistance and stability. It wipes out the “grandmother penalty” by allowing qualified children to participate in TANF cash assistance if they are living with their grandparents or other relatives in unlicensed foster care or if a court has granted legal custody to a relative.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PASSED</p>
 <p>CAA SUPPORTED</p>	<p>HB 2262: Child care assistance Sponsored by Representative Kate Brophy McGee</p> <p>This bill helps employers, child care businesses, parents and children by improving the continuity of child care and sustaining federal child care funding for Arizona working families. The bill cuts down on bureaucracy by making the renewal process once a year. It allows families to keep their child care in place as they begin to move up the economic ladder.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PASSED</p>

2016 Priority Legislation Affecting Children and Families

 <p>CAA SUPPORTED</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">PASSED</p> <p>SB 1308: Juvenile detention Sponsored by Senator Gail Griffin</p> <p>This bill improves conditions and outcomes for youth. It allows a criminal court judge to order that a youth who is awaiting trial in adult court be detained in a juvenile detention facility rather than in a county jail holding adult offenders. Many county jails have a difficult time providing appropriate and required services for the very small number of youth in their custody.</p>
 <p>CAA SUPPORTED</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">FAILED</p> <p>Floor Amendments to HB 2705 and SB 1536 TANF Cash Assistance Time Limit Sponsored by Representative Debbie McCune Davis and Senator Katie Hobbs</p> <p>These proposed amendments to the budget bills would have protected very poor children from neglect, hunger, domestic violence, and homelessness by allowing moms to participate in TANF cash assistance for up to 24 months during their lifetimes, instead of only 12.</p>
 <p>CAA OPPOSED</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">FAILED</p> <p>SB 1316: Predatory Consumer Loans Sponsored by Senator John Kavanagh</p> <p>This bill would have created loans which would charge more than 200% in interest annually. Under this bill, a family who gets a \$2,500 loan could end up owing more than \$10,000 over a period of two years, trapping families in a cycle of debt and giving children less security and stability.</p>

How to Use This Guide

The voting record on the following pages tracks six votes in the Senate and seven in the House of Representatives in 2016. 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.

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.

To find out who the elected officials are in your district, please visit our website at : www.AzChildren.org > Take Action > Find Your Elected Officials

State Representative	SB 1457 KidsCare	HB 2697 Bonus Deprec	HB 2452 Grma Penalty	HB 2262 Childcare	SB 1308 Juv Justice	HB2705 TANF BRB	SB 1316 Flex Loan	2016 Grade for Kids
John Ackerley (LD 2 - S Tucson, Santa Cruz County)	★		★	★	★	NV	★	83%
John Allen (LD 15 - North Phoenix)			★		★			29%
Lela Alston (LD 24 - Central and East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	NV	100%
Richard C. Andrade (LD 29 - W Phoenix, Glendale)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Brenda Barton (LD 6 - Sedona, Flagstaff)			★	★	★		★	57%
Jennifer D. Benally (LD 7 - Northeast Arizona)	★	★	★	★	NV	★	★	100%
Reginald Bolding Jr. (LD 27 - South Phoenix)	★	★	NV	★	★	★	★	100%
Sonny Borrelli (LD 5 - La Paz & Mohave Counties)			★		★			29%
Rusty Bowers (LD 25 - Mesa)			★		★			29%
Paul Boyer (LD 20 - Northwest Phoenix)			★	★	★	NV		50%
Kate Brophy McGee (LD 28 - North East Phoenix)	★		★	★	★	NV	★	83%
Noel Campbell (LD 1 - Anthem, Yavapai County)	★		★	★	★			57%
Mark Cardenas (LD 19 - Avondale, Tolleson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Heather Carter (LD 15 - North Phoenix)	★		★	★	★		NV	67%
Ken Clark (LD 24 - Central and East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Regina Cobb (LD 5 - La Paz & Mohave Counties)	★		★	★	★			57%
Doug Coleman (LD 16 - Apache Junction, E Mesa)	★		★	★	★	NV		67%
Diego Espinoza (LD 19 - Avondale, Tolleson)	★	★	NV	NV	★	★	★	100%
Karen Fann (LD 1 - Anthem, Yavapai County)	★		★	★	★			57%
Eddie Farnsworth (LD 12 - Gilbert)			★		★			29%
Charlene Fernandez (LD 4 - S Yuma & W Pima Counties)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Mark Finchem (LD 11 - Marana, Oro Valley)			★		★			29%
Randall Friese (LD 9 - Midtown Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Rosanna Gabaldón (LD 2 - S Tucson, Santa Cruz Cnty)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Sally Ann Gonzales (LD 3 - West Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
David M. Gowan, Sr. (LD 14 - Southeast Arizona)			★	★	★			43%
Rick Gray (LD 21 - Peoria, Sun City)	★		★	★	★			57%
Albert Hale (LD 7 - Northeast Arizona)	★	★	NV	NV	★	★	★	100%
Anthony Kern (LD 20 - Northwest Phoenix)			★		★			29%
Matthew Kopec (LD 9 - Midtown Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%

★ = a vote for kids

blank = no vote for kids

NV = not voting or absent

State Representative	SB 1457 KidsCare	HB 2697 Bonus Deprec	HB 2452 Grma Penalty	HB 2262 Childcare	SB 1308 Juv Justice	HB2705 TANF BRB	SB 1316 Flex Loan	2016 Grade for Kids
Jonathan Larkin (LD 30 - West Central Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Jay Lawrence (LD 23 - Scottsdale, Fountain Hills)			★		★			29%
Vince Leach (LD 11 - Marana, Oro Valley)			★		★			29%
David Livingston (LD 22 - Surprise, Sun City West)			★		★			29%
Phil Lovas (LD 22 - Surprise, Sun City West)			★		NV			17%
Stefanie Mach (LD 10 - East, Central Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Debbie McCune Davis (LD 30 - West Central Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Juan Jose Mendez (LD 26 - Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
J.D. Mesnard (LD 17 - Chandler)			★	★	★			43%
Eric Meyer (LD 28 - North East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Darin Mitchell (LD 13 - N Yuma & W Maricopa Counties)			★		★			29%
Steve Montenegro (LD 13 - N Yuma & W Maricopa Counties)			★		★			29%
Jill Norgaard (LD 18 -Ahwatukee, Chandler, S Tempe)	★		★	NV	★			50%
Justin Olson (LD 25 - Mesa)	★		★		★			43%
Lisa Otondo (LD 4 - S Yuma & W Pima Counties)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Warren Petersen (LD 12 - Gilbert)			★		★			29%
Celeste Plumlee (LD 26—Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Frank Pratt (LD 8 - Pinal County)	★		NV	★	★	NV		60%
Rebecca Rios (LD 27 - South Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	NV	100%
Tony Rivero (LD 21 - Peoria, Sun City)	NV		NV	NV	★		★	50%
Bob Robson (LD 18 - Ahwatukee, Chandler, S Tempe)	★		★	★	NV			50%
Macario Saldate, IV (LD 3 - West Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
T.J. Shope (LD 8 - Pinal County)	★		★	★	★	NV		67%
David W. Stevens (LD 14 - Southeast Arizona)			★		★			29%
Bob Thorpe (LD 6 - Sedona, Flagstaff, Snowflake)			★		★			29%
Kelly Townsend (LD 16 - Apache Junction, East Mesa)	★		NV	NV	★			40%
Michelle Ugenti-Rita (LD 23 - Scottsdale, Fountain Hills)			★		NV			17%
Ceci Velasquez (LD 29 - West Phoenix, Glendale)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Jeff Weninger (LD 17 - Chandler)			★	★	★			43%
Bruce Wheeler (LD 10 - East, Central Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%

★ = a vote for kids

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NV = not voting or absent

State Senator	HB 1457 KidsCare	HB 2697 Bonus Deprec	HB 2452 Grma Penalty	SB 2262 Child- care	SB 1308 Juv Justice	SB 1536 TANF BRB	2016 Grade for Kids
Sylvia Allen (LD 6 - Sedona, Flagstaff, Snowflake)			★		★		33%
Nancy Barto (LD 15 - North Phoenix)			★	★	★		50%
Carlyle Begay (LD 7 - Northeast Arizona)	★		★	★	★	★	83%
Andy Biggs (LD 12 - Gilbert)			★	★	★		50%
David Bradley (LD 10 - East, Central Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Judy Burges (LD 22 - Surprise, Sun City West)			★		★		33%
Olivia Cajero Bedford (LD 3 - West Tucson)	NV	★	★	★	NV	★	100%
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)	★		★	★	★	NV	80%
Susan Donahue (LD 5 - La Paz & Mohave Counties)	NV		★	★	★		60%
Adam Driggs (LD 28 - North East Phoenix)	★		★	★	★		67%
Steve Farley (LD 9 - Midtown Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
David Farnsworth (LD 16 Apache Junction, East Mesa)			★	★	★		50%
Gail Griffin (LD 14 - Southeast Arizona)			★	★	★		50%
Katie Hobbs (LD 24 - Central and East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
John Kavanagh (LD 23 - Scottsdale, Fountain Hills)			★	★	★		50%
Debbie Lesko (LD 21 - Peoria, Sun City)			★	★	★		50%
Barbara McGuire (LD 8 - Pinal County)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Robert Meza (LD 30 - West Central Phoenix)	★	★	NV	★	★	★	100%
Catherine Miranda (LD 27 - South Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Lynne Pancrazi (LD 4 - S. Yuma County & W. Pima County)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Steve Pierce (LD 1 - Anthem, Yavapai County)	★		★	★	★		67%
Martin Quezada (LD 29 - West Phoenix, Glendale)	★	★	NV	NV	★	★	100%
Andrew Sherwood (LD 26 - Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Don Shooter (LD 13 - N. Yuma County, W. Maricopa County)			★	★	★		50%
Steve Smith (LD 11 - Marana, Oro Valley)			★	★	NV		40%
Bob Worsley (LD 25 - Mesa)	★		★	★	★		67%
Steve Yarbrough (LD 17 - Chandler)			★	★	★		50%
Kimberly Yee (LD 20 - Northwest Phoenix)			★	★	★		50%

★ = a vote for kids

blank = no vote for kids

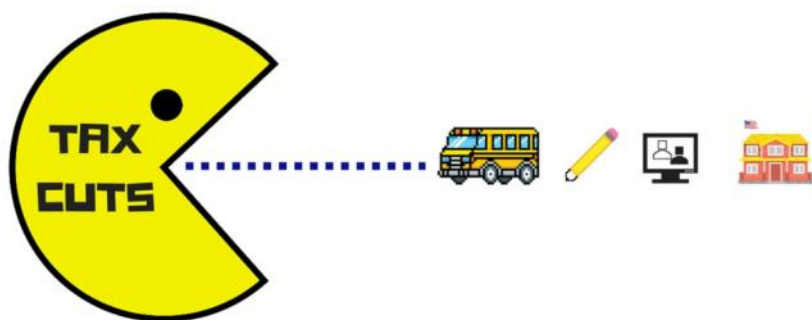
NV = not voting or absent

Tax Cuts Eat Away Resources for Education

Governor Ducey and House and Senate leaders say they place a high priority on structural balance. The budget they adopted focuses on using one-time cash balances for one-time expenses with very little spending added for any ongoing needs. The budget pays off \$232 million in “rollovers” to improve transparency and to put the state in a stronger position to handle future downturns.

But the budget package fails to follow these principles on the revenue side of the ledger. On top of 25 years of permanent tax cuts, these legislators adopted \$36 million in new, permanent, ongoing special interest tax cuts – many of which will grow over time.

While there is no evidence that any of these tax cuts will create a single job, they will definitely make it harder to plan for sustainable education funding. This is a time when parents and business CEOs are urgently calling for increased investments in public schools. Arizona will never have the revenue to meet that challenge unless we stop the annual practice of cutting taxes and increasing exemptions and credits.



Bipartisan Leadership Sets Positive Direction for Child Safety

As the Department of Child Safety (DCS) struggles with high caseloads, high staff turnover, and not enough foster homes for the growing number of children in foster care, lawmakers from both parties gave strong direction for improved investments and operations that should slow the growth in foster care and give better support to foster parents and the children they are caring for.

The state budget prioritizes prevention and in-home services to reduce the growth in foster care. There is increased funding to handle a growing number of cases and to improve operations and service responses. The budget also adds new accountability measures for DCS so that resources will be spent to strengthen child safety.

- HB 2260 requires DCS to review the implementation of the new foster home licensing rules with input from foster families. DCS must report to the legislature by the end of this year with any recommendations to modify the rules to work better for children and foster parents.
- HB 2270 requires DCS to work with private contractors to address the backlog of abuse and neglect cases. The budget appropriates \$5.4 million for this purpose.
- HB 2442, known as “Jacob’s Law,” sets specific timelines for the Regional Behavioral Health Authorities to provide services to children in foster care and empowers foster parents to access services if timelines aren’t met.
- HB 2665 establishes the Foster Youth Education Success Program in the Office of the Governor. Beginning in July 2017, the bill appropriates \$1.5 million (to be matched by \$0.5 million in community dollars) to contract with service providers to coordinate educational champions for children living in foster care.

What You Need to Know About the State Budget

One-time transportation projects	\$86M
Expanded border task force	\$23M
1,000 unfilled new prison beds	\$17M
Personnel to handle child abuse case backlog	\$5M

WHAT IS NEW?

WHAT IS BETTER?

↑ Child abuse prevention UP

Growth in foster care DOWN ↓

Strategies to prevent family crisis and save on long-term costs, such as child care and TANF

Sustainable funding for public schools, including updated textbooks, technology and incentives to keep extraordinary teachers

WHAT IS MISSING?

WHAT IS UNBALANCED?

More PERMANENT AND GROWING TAX CUTS, shrinking resources for education

\$36M+



www.AZChildren.org