2019 Legislative Session

We invite you to join us in opposing measures that threaten Arizona children and families and supporting those that promote children’s health, education, and security. Below is the list of priority bills and their status.

Bad Ideas

**Barriers to Administering Vaccinations**

Threaten public health by creating layers of cost and bureaucracy for health care workers administering vaccines and expanding exemptions to allow parents to enroll their children in public school without immunizing them against dangerous and highly contagious diseases.

No votes scheduled in House or Senate.

**Sales Tax on the Ballot**

Asks voters to raise the statewide sales tax rate from 5.6% to 6.0% with revenues dedicated to public schools, community colleges, and state universities. Brings in an additional $480 million per year, too little funding to alleviate the teacher shortage crisis, reduce class sizes, or update classroom textbooks and technology. Makes the tax system more unfair, with low and middle income families paying the largest share of their incomes.

Approved by Senate Committee of the Whole; awaiting final vote in the Senate.

**Paying Students Below Minimum Wage**

Allows employers to pay full-time students younger than 22 less than the minimum wage mandated by Arizona voters. Hurts college students who depend on income to support their families; builds a new barrier to postsecondary education.

Passed House 31-29; passed Senate Commerce, 4-3. Senate Rules amendment requires a ¾ vote because the bill alters a voter initiative; bill is DEAD.
Allow Health Plans Without Basic Coverage
Removes health coverage for Arizonans with pre-existing conditions by extending the allowed duration of limited, “short term” health plans from 185 days to three years.

Signed into law by Governor Ducey.

Good Ideas

Prevent an Automatic Freeze on KidsCare
Removes the automatic freeze on KidsCare enrollment and matches Governor Ducey’s budget with a $1.6 million appropriation of state funds to keep KidsCare open.

No more movement on the bills; KidsCare must be included in the state budget to stay open.

Allocation of Federal Child Care Funds
Invests $56 million in unspent federal child care funds with a specific allocation: half to raise the child care scholarship rates for all qualified children, one quarter to increase the number of scholarships to more children, and one quarter to pay higher scholarship rates for child care that meets quality standards for infants, toddlers, and children in the Department of Child Safety system.

Passed House 47-10; Passed Senate Appropriations 7-0. No vote scheduled for the Senate; may have to be included in state budget negotiations even though there is not a penny of state funding.
Dental Care for Pregnant Women
Adds coverage for dental services for adult pregnant women (age 21 and over) enrolled in AHCCCS, improves oral health of expectant mothers, and subsequently, the overall health of their babies.

Passed Senate 27-3; Passed House Health and Human Services; Passed House Appropriations, 7-4.

Financial Support for Abused and Neglected Children Placed with Relatives
Cuts red tape so that abused and neglected children living with grandparents and other relatives get financial support through the monthly Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) “Child Only” payment.

Passed Senate, 27 – 2; Passed for House Health and Human Services, 8-0; Passed House Appropriations, 9-2.

Allow Juvenile Court to Make Decisions Supporting Youth Success
Gives juvenile court judges, under specific circumstances, discretion to set aside or destroy a delinquent record, adjust fines, and designate certain offenses as misdemeanors.

Passed House 57 – 1; Passed Senate Judiciary, 6-0; Passed Senate Rules, Passed Senate, 28-0; ready for House action on Senate amendments.

Extended Care for Youth Transitioning From Foster Care At Age 18
Allows Arizona to draw down an estimated $5 million in additional federal funds to support youth who have lived in foster care in making a successful transition to adulthood, including help with housing, education, employment and health care.

Passed Senate 30-0; passed House Health and Human Services, 9-0; Passed House Rules, 7-1; Added to House Consent Calendar on 4/8.