

SB 1267 – Eligibility; children’s health insurance program

Sponsored by: Senator Christine Marsh

CAA position: Support

Bill Status: This bill was never assigned to a committee.

Bill description:

KidsCare provides low-cost care to children under 19 who live in households earning between 133-200% of the federal poverty limit (FPL). Arizona has the fourth highest rate of uninsured children in the U.S., and more than 27,000 – nearly 19% of all uninsured children in our state – live in households earning slightly too much to qualify for KidsCare. This bill expands eligibility so that the program reaches families earning up to 300% FPL.

HB2338 – AHCCCS (Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System); preventive dental care

Sponsored by: Representative Amish Shah

CAA position: Support

Bill Status: This bill passed the House and the Health and Human Services and Appropriations Committee in the Senate but was never heard in Rules.

Bill description:

AHCCCS insures over 1.5 million adults in Arizona but provides only emergency dental care, which is capped at \$1000 annually. Access to routine cleanings, fillings, and other preventive care are out of reach. This bill would allow adult Arizonans who participate in AHCCCS basic preventive care oral health care such as cleanings and X-rays before the condition becomes urgent, saving the state money in emergency room costs and sparing people who participate in Medicaid unnecessary hardship due to the lack of preventive care.

HB2246 – AHCCCS; eligibility; immigration status

Sponsored by: Representative De Los Santos

CAA position: Support

Bill Status: This bill was assigned to but never heard in committees.

Bill description:

AHCCCS membership requires either US citizenship or “qualified non-citizens” to wait five years after receiving their qualifying immigration status. As a result of these requirements, many Arizona residents are only eligible for emergency AHCCCS coverage but not comprehensive and preventive services. This bill removes such restrictions.

HB2160 – School mental health professionals; academy

Sponsored by: Representative Judy Schwiebert

CAA position: Support

Bill Status: This bill was assigned to but never heard in committees.

Bill description:

This bill creates Arizona school mental health professionals' academies at state postsecondary institutions to incentivize students to enter school psychology, social work, and counseling professions.

HB 2137 – Children’s health insurance program; Eligibility

Sponsored by: Representative Athena Salman

CAA position: Support

Bill Status: This bill was assigned to the Health and Human Services and Appropriations Committees but never heard.

Bill description:

KidsCare provides low-cost care to children under 19 who live in households earning between 133-200% of the federal poverty limit (FPL). Arizona has the fourth highest rate of uninsured children in the U.S., and more than 27,000 – nearly 19% of all uninsured children in our state – live in households earning slightly too much to qualify for KidsCare. This bill expands eligibility so that the program reaches families earning up to 250% FPL.

SB 1197: Juvenile Offenders; Monetary Sanctions; Repeal

Sponsored By: Senator Gowan

CAA Position: Support

Bill Status: This bill passed out of both chambers and was signed by the Governor on May 26th.

Bill Description: Children involved in the juvenile court system are routinely charged administrative fees that can amount to thousands of dollars. Many young people are saddled with debt from these fees well into adulthood with devastating consequences. SB 1197 eliminates administrative juvenile court fees, bars juvenile courts from considering outstanding fees when determining whether to order juvenile records destroyed and requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to adopt a process for individuals with previously assessed fees to apply to have their debt waived.

SB 1186: Foster Care; Children; Parents; Rights

Sponsored by: Senator Bennett

CAA Position: Support

Bill Status: This bill passed out of both chambers and was signed by the Governor on May 19th.

Bill Description: SB 1186 strengthens the rights afforded to children, caregivers, and parents involved with the child welfare system. It gives children the right to be placed with a relative, and with or near to siblings among other things. For caregivers, the bill includes kinship caregivers in the rights given to foster parents and gives all caregivers the right to be notified of a child returning to foster care or when a

child currently placed in care becomes available for adoption. The bill provides parents with the right to be informed of any allegation against them, have an attorney present during child welfare investigations, and refuse to submit to a home inspection, drug test or mental health evaluation barring a court order. These rights are enforceable by filing a complaint with DCS's Office of the Ombudsman or with the state's Ombudsman Citizen-Aide and via notification of the Juvenile Court.

HB 2559: DCS (Department of Child Safety); Federal Benefits; Dependent Children

Sponsored by: Representative Montenegro

CAA Position: Support

Bill Status: This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor on June 19th.

Bill Description: Roughly 5% of all children and youth in foster care qualify for Social Security Administration disability and survivor benefits. Currently, the Arizona Department of Child Safety intercepts those funds and applies them to the costs of the child's own foster care. This longstanding practice is known as "benefits mining." [HB 2559](#) prevents DCS from using this practice and requires that the benefits be accounted for, protected, and saved for the children's own use when they exit foster care.

HB 2460: Suspension; Requirements; K-4 Students

Sponsored by: Representative Pingerelli

CAA Position: Oppose

Bill Status: This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor on June 19th.

Bill Description: House Bill 2460 allows public schools to suspend students in kindergarten through 4th grade for any reason for up to two days (not to exceed 10 days within the school year), undermining legislation passed two years ago to protect young students from discipline policies. Even short-term school suspensions have a lasting negative impact on children and disproportionately applied to Black, Latino, indigenous, LGBTQ+, and disabled students.

HB 2053; Nurse Home Visitation; Program; Appropriations

Sponsored by: Representative Bliss

CAA Position: Support

Bill Status: The appropriation was included in the final budget agreement

HB 2053 creates a competitive, 3-year grant administered by AZ Department of Child Safety for local Arizona providers to deliver the evidence-based Nurse-Family Partnership nurse home visiting program to up to 625 first-time, low-income Arizona moms and their babies. A one-time appropriation of \$7.5M was included in the 2024 budget for this initiative.

HCR 2001; School District Expenditures; Authorization

Sponsored by: Representative Cook HB 2685

CAA Position: Support

Bill Status: The bill passed and was submitted to the Secretary of State on 2/9/2023

HCR 2001 raises the Aggregate Expenditure Limit for the 2022-2023 School Year allowing school districts to spend the entire amount they were allocated in the SFY (State Fiscal Year) 2023 budget.

HB 2685; Appropriation; Child Care Assistance

Sponsored by: Alma Hernandez

CAA Position: Support

Bill Status: No action was taken on this bill.

HB 2685 would appropriate \$30,000,000 from the state general fund- equivalent to the matching the amount the state is required to provide to draw down federal Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding to maintain provider reimbursement rates at the federal benchmark.