



**CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**

*A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Senate budget cuts kids' health coverage, creates needless bureaucracy**

*Spending tax dollars on paperwork, not kids' health*

April 12, 2011 — The Children's Alliance released the following statement today in response to Senate Bill 5929, which will limit enrollment in the state's popular, successful, cost-effective health coverage program, Apple Health for Kids.

From Deputy Director Jon Gould:

"We expect the Senate to release a budget today that restricts health coverage for children and creates needless additional government bureaucracy.

"Senate Bill 5929 was released over the weekend. It makes enrollment changes to Apple Health for Kids.

"We know from past experience that such changes don't successfully reduce spending. In 2003, the Legislature changed children's health policy, resulting in over \$3 million in added costs to the state budget. Similar costs would follow with SB 5929.

"We suggest that taxpayer dollars go to preventive care for kids, not needless additional paperwork.

"Washington's health coverage plan for children is a national success. It will earn the state \$80 million in flexible federal funding due to its streamlined practices over the next two years. The Senate budget would undo those efficiencies. Precious public funds would go to managing a waiting list instead of ensuring that children have health care."

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*The Children's Alliance is a statewide public policy advocacy organization that works at the state and federal level to ensure that all children have what they need to thrive. Learn more at our web site, [www.childrensalliance.org](http://www.childrensalliance.org).*