



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families

June 2, 2011

Governor Chris Gregoire
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0001

Dear Governor Gregoire:

As you review bills passed by the Legislature, we offer the following suggestions and requests regarding SB 5921, and HB 1965.

On SB 5921, regarding the TANF program, it has been a long time since the legislature has addressed TANF in such depth and on a bipartisan basis. We join with the other members of the Welfare Advocates Group in supporting the following provisions: the suspension of WorkFirst participation requirements for some TANF families with young children during the one year revisioning process, sliding fee scale for kinship caregivers, and disregarding income from SSI in determining TANF financial eligibility.

We do however, continue to have concerns about the harmful effects on families that the 15% grant reduction, 5 year hard cutoff, and lack of any fee notification from Chase Bank have. We will work in future years to address these concerns and to ensure that no child is denied the essentials they need to thrive.

HB 1965, concerning adverse childhood experiences, is important to Washington children. It continues the Council for Children and Families (CCF) until June 30, 2012 and ensures that CCF works with the Department of Early Learning to develop a plan for the transition of their functions related to the early learning of children. It also continues the Family Policy Council until June 30, 2012, and brings the public and private sectors together to develop strategies related to the reduction of adverse childhood experiences.

The changes in HB 1965 allow our state to increase efficiencies while we still pursue the best outcomes for every child in Washington State.

Thank you for considering these requests. Please feel free to contact me at jon@childrensalliance.org or 206.683.2674 with any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Gould". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

Jon Gould
Deputy Director

cc. Jim Justin
Marty Loesch
Susan Dreyfus
Alexis Oliver
Kari Burell
Bette Hyde