



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families

Questions & Answers about Revenue

Lawmakers are debating ways to adopt a balanced budget by March 11th—they can either cut services, raise revenue, or do a combination of both. We support a balanced approach that includes significant new revenues. Delaying action is not an option.

Why is revenue needed now?

The Children's Alliance wants our state to be a great place for kids. The recession threatens to hold that vision back. During these tough economic times families have greater needs than ever – it's not the time to cut back more support.

Why can't budget cuts, or increased efficiency solve this problem?

Lawmakers already cut billions of dollars out of the state budget and have reduced support for children dramatically. There is no way to cut our way out of this recession without causing serious and long-term damage to public programs we count on – health care, education, and more. An “all cuts” approach will roll back decades of progress.

Where could revenue come from?

There are many options for new state revenues, such as ending tax exemptions that don't provide value to taxpayers or taxing non-essential or toxic products. The Children's Alliance will carefully evaluate each proposal and urge lawmakers to build a package of new revenues that will benefit kids and that a majority of the legislature will support.

What happens if state lawmakers do not raise revenue?

Billions in cuts made last year are already hurting kids and families around the state. If lawmakers fail to raise revenue, scores of programs and services for vulnerable children will end or be more deeply reduced. Thousands of children in our state will lose access to child care, health care, pre-school, meal programs, and foster care services.

Furthermore, failing to raise revenue now will mean another budget shortfall in January of 2011, with the possibility of more budget cuts next year.

What's the message to lawmakers?

Take a balanced approach and raise a substantial amount of revenue to protect vital services for children and families.

For more information, contact Siobhan Ring, Children's Alliance Mobilization Coordinator, at siobhan@childrensalliance.org, or 1.800.854.5437 (KIDS) x13.