



## 2015 Texas Legislative Session: A Time for Children

### **Health & Nutrition**

- Develop a Healthy Food Financing Program that supports the development, expansion, and renovation of grocery retail options that offer a full selection of healthy to underserved communities.
- Support legislation and policies at the state level that incent the purchase of healthy foods with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dollars
- Require a state policy on recess that encourages age-appropriate outdoor playtime

### **Education**

#### Expanded Learning Opportunities:

- Establish a competitive grant program that provides financial support and local flexibility to schools that choose to implement high quality expanded learning opportunities
- Establish a waiver system that facilitates school districts' ability to offer extended learning time through a longer school year or longer school day

#### Quality Prekindergarten Programs:

- Ensure transparency of prekindergarten assessments and program quality
- Expand funding to school districts that limit class size and/or staff-to-teacher ratios
- Create incentives for school districts to offer full-day prekindergarten

### **Human Trafficking**

#### Ending Demand:

- Give judges the flexibility to impose harsher sentences on individuals who purchase sex with minors
- Add demand to Human Trafficking Prevention Taskforce - demand must become part of the solution to end trafficking
- Create a voluntary registry of state businesses committed to fighting human trafficking

#### Quality of Care Standards:

- Comprehensive reform to ensure victims are rehabilitated and not criminalized
- Maintain the security and privacy of victims by eliminating the requirement of a public hearing for proposed safe houses in counties with 300,000 residents or less
- Monitor the implementation of HT training for HHSC, DFPS, and TEA
- Ensure quality standards are upheld for all residential service providers serving human trafficking victims.

## **Parenting**

### Evidence-based Parenting

- Establish a task force to study the impact of evidence-based parent education on children, families, and the state
- Prioritize evidence-based parent education by requiring that 75% of the state's parent education funds go to evidence-based programs and 25% to promising practices
- Require that CPS and court-mandated parenting classes be evidence-based when available
- Appropriate funding for a evidence-based parenting program that is population focused.

### Parent Involvement:

- Create a structure to improve family leave policy in Texas to allow parents allotted time to leave work in order to attend academic and disciplinary meetings at their children's schools

### Parent Health:

- Extension of Medicaid coverage for mothers from the current 60-days after delivery to one year after delivery
- Establish a Postpartum Depression Awareness Month