



POWER-PAC, Parents Organized to Win, Educate and Renew – Policy Action Council

We endorse the recommendations of the Responsible Budget Coalition to maximize revenues and to assure that programs ARE NOT CUT that support vulnerable children and families.

And we urge you to support the following legislation to advance Children's Rights in Illinois:



Children's Right To Play:

SB 636, Amendment 2 (Sen. Lightford/Reps. Dunkin and Chapa LaVia) – Require a 20-minute recess for all Illinois preK – 5th graders so that every child has the benefits of better health, grades, social relationships, and behavior.

Children's Right to Early Care and Education:

Protect the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) this year and next:

- Vote yes on HB 6164 (Rep. Feigenholtz) to add \$73.6 million this year to continue child care funding through June 30, 2012.
- Ensure parent co-payments are not increased.
- Maintain current eligibility for families.
- Maintain current rates for child-care centers.

Restore the ISBE Early Childhood Block Grant which funds Preschool for All
Maintain current funding for IDHS Home Visiting Programs (Parents Too Soon and Healthy Families).

Children's Right to a Quality Education:

Do not cut appropriations for school and community school funding including Bilingual Education, Teen Reach and the Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS).

SB 3239/HB 4487 (Sen. Martinez/Rep. Soto) – Stop school actions (turnarounds, closings and phase-outs) for a year while districts establish polices to improve low-performing schools.

Children's Right to Safety:

HB 5290 (Rep. Cassidy/Sen. Steans) - Develop a model bullying prevention policy for schools to keep our children safe.

Children's Right to Financial Security:

SB 1565 (Sen. Lightford) – Increase minimum wage and expand eligibility.
A living wage is critical for the success of our children.

No cuts to Medicaid funding that keeps seniors and low-income families healthy.