



Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy 2008 Legislative Agenda for Children and Youth

FINAL REPORT: June 6, 2008

Provide Health Care Coverage for Autism – HB 2531 “Nick’s Law” (Gumm)

Require private health insurers to include coverage of expenses associated with treatment of autism spectrum disorders that are prescribed by the treating physician in accordance with an individual treatment plan.

Status: Senator Gumm amended HB 2531 on the Senate floor to contain the all the language of “Nick’s Law”.
HB 2531 *Passed the Senate as amended 30/18. Not heard in the House -DEAD.*

Increase Access to Health Care through Workforce Development – SB 1769 (Paddack / Coody)

Increase access to health care by implementing workforce development and expanding programs and funding to increase the availability of subspecialists in maternal and child health and behavioral health.

Status: **SB 1769** creates the Health Care Workers and Educators Assistance Act to address the critical shortage of health care providers in underserved areas of the state by attracting more students into nursing and allied health professions, and to create additional faculty to expand the educational pipeline.
Passed Senate 45/0. Passed House 100/0. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

Increase Physical Education – SB 1186 (Easley / Coody)

Increase the current PE requirement for grades K-5 from 60 minutes per week to 120 minutes per week. The additional 60 minutes would consist of 30 minutes of health education based on the national standards for health education, with topics to be determined by local school boards, and 30 minutes of additional physical activity through fitness breaks, recess, and classroom activities.

Status: **SB 1186** increases the PE requirement K-5 to 120 minutes per week, with flexibility in the additional 60 minutes to include health and wellness education, and additional physical activity.
Passed the House 66/25. Passed Senate 28/19. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Combat Childhood Obesity through Out-of-School Programs – SB 1612 (Justice / Winchester)

Make funds available to support out-of-school programming that demonstrates collaboration with community partners and that includes evidence-based physical activity and nutrition components.

Status: **SB 1612** creates the structure of a mini-grant program within the Department of Health to assist out-of-school programs to incorporate elements to reduce childhood obesity.
Passed House 93/5. Passed Senate 36/2. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Prevent Youth Access to Alcohol – HB 3010 (Worthen / Nichols); SB 1530 (Leftwich / Worthen); CCR for HB 2963 (Morgan / Coates).

Amends the Social Host Law, which prohibits adults from hosting teen drinking parties, to include low-point beer, and creates graduated penalties for first, second and subsequent offenses.

Status: **HB 3010** *was not heard in House Judiciary Committee – DEAD.*
SB 1530 *passed the Senate Floor 48/0. Not heard in House Judiciary - DEAD.*
CCR HB 2963 *was not been reported from committee. - DEAD*

APPROPRIATION REQUESTS - DEAD

The Legislature passed a “standstill budget” for next year with no new moneys for the requests of the Children’s Agenda.

Keep Children Safe – SB 1525 (Anderson) and \$16.6 million request from DHS – *Not funded*

Provide sufficient funding for Oklahoma to meet national standards regarding: statewide child welfare caseloads, foster care and out-of-home placement reimbursement rates, and paid, trained respite care for resource parents.

Status: **SB 1525** directs DHS to implement caseload/investigation levels for CPS workers that meet national standards, and directs DHS to hire 197 additional CPS workers [Fiscal Note: DHS estimates the cost to be \$16.6 million: \$5.8 million federal and \$10.8 million state]

SB 1525 has been signed by the Governor, but the language was gutted on the House Floor and totally new language was inserted, so that it no longer pertains to DHS caseloads.

Support Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative – \$14.9 million request - *Not funded*

Support the multi-agency Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative, including Year One of a 5-year comprehensive budget request, encompassing prevention, early intervention, community-based services, inpatient and residential treatment, group homes and therapeutic foster care, serving children 0-21.

Reduce Child Abuse – \$3 mill to OSHD; \$3 mill to SDE – *Not funded*

Reduce child abuse and neglect in Oklahoma by supporting state agency budget requests to strengthen the existing continuum of prevention services offered by Oklahoma State Department of Health (such as Children First, Office of Child Abuse Prevention, Child Guidance); Oklahoma Department of Human Services (such as Safe Care); Department of Education (such as Parents as Teachers).

Help Children Thrive in Child Care - \$26 million request from DHS – *Not funded*

Increase safety and quality of child care through lower child/staff ratios, improved teacher qualifications, and adequate child care reimbursement rates to improve quality, and increases in market rates / minimum wage.