



Guide To
State Legislature Talking Points
★ *Be The Voice For Children* ★



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Legislative Affairs Contact Information:

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 **Be Involved.....**

The involvement of Children's staff, physicians, patients and families, and friends is vital to the success of Children's grassroots lobbying efforts. Only you can give legislators the most accurate picture about how issues really affect you and your patients and their families. As Franklin Delano Roosevelt stated, "Nothing just happens in politics. If something happens you can be sure it was planned that way."

 **Talking Points: *Share Children's Facts....***

- Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota is Minnesota's largest provider of health care to children, with 326 staffed beds, and the 7th largest in the country.
- Children's is the destination for the sickest children from Minnesota and surrounding region.
- Children's excels in measures of pediatric clinical quality and safety, nationally and internationally. Children's is ranked one of the top pediatric hospitals in the country for quality and safety by the respected Leapfrog Group.
- Nearly 350 future pediatric specialists—including residents and fellows from the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic—receive their training at Children's each year. Children's is committed to training the next generation of care providers across the full spectrum of pediatric subspecialties.
- Children's serves more children covered under Medical Assistance than any other provider in the region.
- Children's provides care to kids from every Minnesota congressional district!



Talking Points: *Tell How Children's Treats Our Region's Sickest Kids....*

- **Critical care**—46% of Children's beds are critical care beds, compared to 9% of beds in adult hospitals.
- **High-risk infants**—Children's cares for more high-risk infants than any other health care organization in Minnesota.
- **Heart conditions**—Children's has the largest, most comprehensive program in Minnesota, performing 400 complex heart surgeries and 250 minimally invasive procedures annually.
- **Cancer**—the majority of Minnesota's children with cancer and blood disorders receive inpatient care at Children's.
- **Cystic fibrosis**—Children's ranks among the top programs nationally in measures of nutrition and lung function in children with CF.



Talking Points: *Push Medicaid Matters To Children's!*

- Medicaid is the largest children's health program in the country. Medicaid is a partnership between the federal and state governments.
- Half of all Medicaid enrollees are children, and 78% live in households where at least one parent works. Medicaid is also the primary source of health care for low-income families.
- Twenty-eight percent of Minnesota's children (324,840 children) are enrolled in Medicaid.
- In 2006, Medicaid covered 49,276 of Children's in-patient days. Thirty-seven percent of Children's revenue comes from Medicaid, making Medicaid Children's largest single source of revenue.
- In order for Children's to continue providing innovative, high quality health care to children in our community, Medicaid must be protected.



Talking Points: *Ask For Legislation That Matters To Children's Patients!*

- Ask for support of the **Compassionate Care Act For Minnesota's Children Act**. This important bill will allow all children diagnosed with serious illnesses to receive palliative care by improving end-of-life care provided to children with life-threatening conditions.

This bill will help reduce hospitalizations and improve the quality of life for children and their families.

- Ask for support of the **Healthy Living After Childhood Cancer Act**. Recent scientific reports indicate that treatment for cancer during childhood or adolescence may affect educational progress due to neurotoxic agents (such as chemotherapy or radiation) to control or prevent spread of the disease to the brain/and or spinal cord. This therapy can sometimes affect memory, attention, and learning abilities. In addition, prolonged absences or reduced energy levels that frequently occur during treatment may also contribute to children's difficulties.

Minnesota's childhood cancer survivors deserve and need neuropsychological testing to help them, their parents, and teachers identify their cognitive strengths and weaknesses as well as interventions so that they can go on to have productive, hopeful futures.

Passage of this legislation will make neuropsychological testing available to Minnesota's childhood cancer survivors.



Talking Points: *Say Thank You For Supporting Children's!*

- Thank the Representative or Senator and their staff for their friendship and support of Children's.

