



Delivering Next Generation Care

Guide To Federal 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. Over 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: *Push Graduate Medical Education Matters To Children's!*

- Children's is committed to training the next generation of pediatric subspecialty physicians.
- Since 1999, Congress has federally funded its commitment to provide equitable graduate medical education funding for our nation's 60 independent children's teaching hospitals with the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program.
- In 2006, Congress examined CHGME carefully, and agreed it had been successful and reauthorized it with overwhelming bipartisan support. Each year Congress must vote to appropriate the dollars needed to fund CHGME.
- CHGME hospitals are less than 1 percent of all hospitals but since 2000 they accounted for more than 67 percent of the national growth in the number of pediatric subspecialists, which is critical to turning around the national shortage of such doctors in many regions.
- In 2007, Children's received \$3.2 million in CHGME funding. These dollars enabled Children's to provide training for nearly 350 residents and fellows.



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

- Ask for support of the **Children's Compassionate Care Act**. This important bill will help to expand pediatric palliative care services and education nationally.
- Ask for support of the **Healthy Living After Childhood Cancer Resolution** and the **Conquer Childhood Cancer Act**. Both of these pieces of legislation provide critical support for the treatment, prevention, and cure of childhood cancer including the late effects of cancer therapy.



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.

