

ROOTING FOR KIDS!



The Children's Hospital

News for The Children's Hospital's
Grassroots Advocates



Zachary Zaslow Named Policy Coordinator

The Children's Hospital is pleased to welcome Zachary Zaslow to the Public Affairs team as our new policy coordinator. Zach brings us an in-depth knowledge of Colorado policy and politics, and he's eager to put his skills and experience to work in support of an advocacy agenda that benefits kids.

Zach joins Children's after five years at the state legislature where he served as policy director for the state Senate Majority Office. In his time at the Senate, Zach researched and wrote about a wide variety of Colorado's state and local challenges, and helped construct a legislative agenda to address those needs. He gained an appreciation for the nuance and complexity of the legislative process, serving as an advisor to members of both the House and Senate on bills, amendments, press, policy and legislative strategy.

Zach has also worked on a variety of candidate campaigns, including managing a statewide race, and a number of ballot measure campaigns, including the effort to pass Referendum C. Prior to that, he served as a policy analyst at the Bighorn Center for Public Policy, where he focused on fiscal policy. A Colorado native, Zach graduated from Iowa's Grinnell College.

Initiatives on November's Ballot

There are a few measures on this year's ballot that will have a negative impact on Colorado kids and families. If approved by voters, these measures could cost Colorado tens of thousands of jobs and force painful cuts in services, such as health care, child care, K-12 education, colleges and universities, child protective services and public safety.



Amendment 60 alters the state constitution to override local voters' preferences and cut school funding by more than a billion dollars a year. It would also slash funding for local voter-approved library districts, fire departments, police departments and other local services.

Amendment 61 eliminates Colorado's ability to build or expand vital public infrastructure through public bonding. If passed, it would be nearly impossible to build new schools, roads, hospitals, colleges, prisons, airports or sewer systems. Without functional infrastructure, Colorado will struggle to attract business investment, which, in turn, could prolong the recession.

Proposition 101 eliminates a major source of road and bridge funding in Colorado by taking the vehicle registration fee to a flat \$10. The registration fee hasn't been that low since 1919, a time when the state had only a handful of paved roads.

Initiative 45 will preclude cost-effective choices regarding health care and threaten the improvements we've made through health care reform. If passed, the initiative would potentially reinstate lifetime and annual caps and limitations for children with pre-existing conditions.

For more information on these ballot initiatives, please visit [The Bell Policy Center](#).



Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization

Earlier this month, the Senate approved the Child Nutrition Act, which will invest \$4.5 billion in reducing childhood hunger and improving nutrition programs and standards for all foods sold in schools. This is a huge victory for children throughout Colorado!

"The reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act is crucial to ensuring that thousands of low income children receive nutritional meals at school that they would otherwise go without," said Jim Shmerling, DHA, FACHE, chief executive officer, The Children's Hospital. "At a time when Colorado's child poverty and childhood obesity rates are increasing we applaud Senator Bennet's work to support legislation that will address both of these significant challenges."

More specifically, the legislation will do many things including:

- Expand after school meals for at-risk children
- Connect more eligible low-income children with school meals
- Help schools improve the nutritional quality of meals
- Strengthen local wellness policies
- Improve food safety requirements for school meals programs

For more information on the Child Nutrition Act, please [click here](#).

Be a Voice for Kids in this Election

Colorado voters will head to the polls in two months to elect, or re-elect, our state's leaders. In preparation for the general election on November 2, make sure that you have the resources needed to make informed decisions and serve as an advocate for children.



How can you get involved and remain informed?

- There are lots of ways the public can access [candidate](#) information including local newspapers, campaign websites and public debates.
- Pay attention: Candidates are not shy about mailing information, knocking on doors and holding community meetings to capture your attention and earn your vote. Take advantage of these opportunities to meet them and learn more about their views.

Register to Vote! Are you registered to vote? Have you moved and need to update your voter registration? You must register to vote by **Monday, October 4**. If you want to avoid busy Election Day polls, apply for an absentee ballot - both the voter registration form and absentee ballot application are available [online](#). Your informed choices help elect those that will protect the interests of Colorado children and families.



Grassroots Advocacy Network

Stay tuned for upcoming action alerts and educational opportunities.

Rooting for Kids! is published by the Strategy and External Affairs department located at:
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Continue to visit www.thechildrenshospital.org/advocacy for advocacy news, tools and events.

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