

Our 2024 Legislative Agenda

Published: Tuesday, 12 December 2023 14:28

Written by: Jenna Williams



At Voices for Utah Children, we always start with this guiding question: "Is it good for all kids?" That remains our north star at the outset of the 2024 legislative session, and is reflected in our top legislative priorities.

So, what's good for all kids in 2024?



A healthy start in life ensures a child's immediate well-being while laying a foundation for future success. We are steadfast in our commitment to championing policies that prioritize every child's physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Central to this commitment is our focus on improving Utah's popular Medicaid and CHIP programs, which are pivotal in the lives of many Utah children and families.



- **Empowering Expectant Mothers:** We support a proposal from Rep. Ray Ward (R-Bountiful) to increase access to health coverage for low-income and immigrant mothers-to-be.

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- **Increasing Access to Health Care:** We support bills that aim to improve access to the vital healthcare services children and parents need, especially for those on Medicaid and CHIP.
 - **Protecting Health Coverage:** We oppose any effort to defund, and exclude deserving children from, the Medicaid and CHIP programs that help thousands of Utah kids every year.
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- **Bolstering Access to Quality Child Care:** We support the efforts of both Rep. Andrew Stoddard (D-Sandy) and Rep. Ashlee Matthews (D-Kearns) to extend the successful Office of Child Care stabilization grant program that has supported licensed child care programs statewide.
- **Investing in High-Quality Preschool:** We support an anticipated legislative proposal to streamline Utah's existing high-quality school-readiness program and to make it available to more preschoolers statewide.
- **Recruiting and Retaining Child Care Professionals:** We support Rep. Matthews' proposal to [expand access to the Child Care Assistance Program for anyone working in the child care sector](#).
- **Building New Child Care Businesses:** We also support Rep. Matthews' proposal to continue funding for work to develop and support new child care programs in rural, urban, and suburban areas.

To view a more comprehensive list of our 2024 early care and learning legislative priorities, click [here](#).

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- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- **A Little Extra Help in the Early Years:** We support HB 153, Rep. Susan Pulsipher's (R-South Jordan) bill to expand Utah's new [Child Tax Credit](#), (currently only for children ages 1 to 3), to apply to children between 1 and 5 years of age. We also strongly recommend helping even more Utah families with young children by making the tax credit available for families with any child between birth and 5, and expanding it to include the thousands of lower- and moderate-income families who are currently excluded.
 - **Credit for Working Families with Kids:** We support HB 149, Rep. Marsha Judkins' (R-Provo) bill to expand Utah's Earned Income Tax Credit so that more lower- and middle-income families with children can benefit.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] We are monitoring bills from Rep. Wilcox (R-Ogden) and the School Safety Task Force, including: HB 14, "School Threat Penalty Amendments" and HB 84, "School Safety Amendments." We remain hopeful that these efforts will support a secure learning environment for all students, without contributing further to the School-to-Prison Pipeline.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Each legislative session presents an opportunity—a chance to reaffirm our commitment, reevaluate our priorities, and reimagine a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

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Together we can continue to make Utah a place where every child's potential is realized, their dreams are nurtured, and their voices are heard.

Below are some ways you can get involved this session.



[VIEW TRACKER](#)

Join us for Legislative Session Days on the Hill

Join us at the Capitol, where we offer attendees the opportunity to engage in the legislative process on a specific issue area (health and/or child care). You'll have the chance to attend bill hearings, lobby your legislators, connect with fellow community advocates, and watch House and Senate floor debates. Click the button below for the dates/times of our meetings and to RSVP.

[RSVP TODAY](#)

Celebrate Utah's Immigrant Community



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