



## 2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### Keeping Kids Healthy

Kids need health care. Neglecting their basic health care needs can multiply health problems and costs as these kids grow into adults. Children's health care needs must be included in the broader health care reform efforts.

- **Enroll all eligible children into the Oregon Health Plan and expand coverage** to children in families up to 300% of the federal poverty line.
- **Support and Expand School-Based Health Centers:** School-based health centers are a cost-effective way to deliver quality, comprehensive primary and preventive care to children and youth.
- **Increase Availability of School Nurses:** Oregon's ratio of school nurses to students falls far short of federal standards, which places the health and education of students at risk.

### Keeping Children Safe

Far too many children are leaving the child welfare system worse off than when they entered. If parents get the help they need more families can stay together, which will result in better outcomes for children.

- **Increase the Availability of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment:** Increase revenue to mental health and substance abuse treatment for parents of children in the child welfare system, so that more foster children can return home safely.
- **Increase the Availability of Domestic Violence Services:** Provide adequate funding to have Domestic Violence advocates stationed at Child Welfare offices around the state.

### Helping Struggling Families

Far too many families are struggling to make ends meet. Any little setback can push a family into the ranks of the impoverished. These programs are crucial to the financial well-being of Oregon's low-income families.

- **Paid Family Leave:** A proposed employee-financed insurance program to provide benefits to employees taking family leave to care for new children or ill family members.
- **Protect Temporary Assistance for Needy Families:** TANF provides cash assistance to low-income families with children while helping them become self-sufficient.
- **Protect Employment Related Day Care:** ERDC provides subsidized day care for working families with incomes below 185% of poverty. ERDC helps former TANF recipients who have found employment stay employed and low-income parents remain in the workforce.
- **Earned Income Tax Credit:** Expanding the EITC is a targeted and effective way to make Oregon's tax system fairer for low- and moderate-income working families, giving them and their communities a much needed boost.

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