

In This Issue

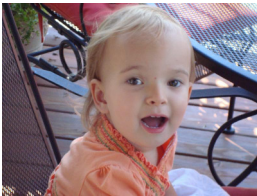
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Tell us your story



Why are you interested in protecting children's healthcare in Arizona? How did you hear about us? What would you like to see in this newsletter? [Contact us](#) with your stories, thoughts, and ideas for how we can all stand up for Arizona's kids.

Making a Difference for Arizona's Children

Issue 1 - February 2009

Welcome!

Thank you for joining the Phoenix Children's Parent Action Committee, and welcome to our first monthly newsletter. Judging by the overwhelming number of people who already joined us, there are many concerned parents and other citizens in our community ready to stand up for children's healthcare in Arizona.



In this issue, we're focusing in on the largest issue facing our Arizona right now -- balancing the state's budget -- and what you can do to help.

Together, we'll make a difference for Arizona's children.

Arizona Capitol Times: "Lawmakers say they didn't understand what they voted for"

Late last month, the *Arizona Capitol Times* quoted a state legislator who said some [policymakers didn't understand what they were voting for when they approved cuts to children's healthcare in the 2009 Arizona budget](#). Now that our representatives are working on the 2010 Arizona budget, we need your help showing them that cuts to children's healthcare don't just hurt a certain group of children - they hurt our entire state.

Federal stimulus funding for Arizona: In jeopardy?

President Barack Obama recently signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, a \$787 billion economic stimulus package to help struggling families, businesses, and governments across the country. Arizona is eligible to receive up to \$4 billion in funding through targeted health and human service program expansions, job creation, and deficit support.

However, some restrictions on using the federal money for healthcare purposes require the state not to make cuts to key safety net programs. These restrictions have caused mixed reactions from lawmakers.

For Arizona to receive the stimulus funds, it may be necessary to reverse some cuts made to the most recent state budget. Lawmakers believe the stimulus money will help in the short-term, but in the longer term, it will only continue our present budget-balancing problems.

Some lawmakers are not happy the stimulus bill gives the Governor, not them, the power to decide how the money is spent.

Other lawmakers want to use the federal stimulus money to pay down the state's general fund debt and not use it in the areas the federal government determined to be most in need.

But we believe the money should be used as it was intended and should restore the cuts made to healthcare, especially those that effect children's healthcare. It was incredibly damaging when the state made these cuts -- it would be even more damaging if the money that is supposed to support

these programs is denied as well.

Take Action!

Please ask our [Governor](#) and [legislature](#) to accept Arizona's fair share of the federal stimulus money as soon as possible and to spend the money as it was intended.

Thank you in advance for your help in this team effort to protect children's healthcare in Arizona. Please [contact us](#) with your questions and concerns, and we encourage you to forward this message to your friends and family who would like to join us.

Sincerely,

Parent Action Committee
Phoenix Children's Hospital



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