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### Contact your Legislators

Congress is working on healthcare reform right now, and there's no better voice for children than you: parents, family members, physicians, and nurses who care about children and about kids' health.

[Connect with your Legislators](#) and speak up for kids!

### Parent Action Committee Online

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## Making a Difference for Arizona's Children

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### PAC Announces Honorary Chairman Pat McMahon

Phoenix Children's is very pleased to announce that Pat McMahon is the new honorary chairman of the PAC. McMahon has been a strong advocate for children's issues and PCH for more than 25 years.



"I want to help Phoenix Children's stand up for children's issues," says McMahon. "I've seen the work they do and I know how important it is to the families of Arizona and the Southwest. I love to meet amazing patients, like Arianna, who was in a terrible car crash that injured her brain and her body. Because of the incredible skill of her surgeon and other specialists, and the great care she received at Phoenix Children's, Arianna is now back in school and doing great. That only happens when we have a strong children's hospital."

Watch Pat McMahon on AZ-TV and listen to him on KTAR for regular stories about the Parent Action Committee and the great things happening at Phoenix Children's.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

PLEASE TAKE ACTION BEFORE THURSDAY, JUNE 18!

You've heard about the devastating cuts the Governor and Legislature are considering making to healthcare as part of their efforts to balance the state's budget. While we appreciate the difficult choices our state government needs to make, we believe policy makers do not understand what will happen to healthcare for ALL children in Arizona if these cuts are made.

The debate has been focused on those who receive health care coverage from AHCCCS, Arizona's name for Medicaid. But the impact is much broader than that. What our legislators don't seem to understand is that diminishing our ability to treat AHCCCS patients will directly affect our ability to treat ALL children. Phoenix Children's believes every child should

have access to quality healthcare; access to comprehensive care; and access to physicians trained to treat every illness and injury.

Phoenix Children's is the only freestanding children's hospital in Arizona; the only one staffed and equipped to treat children with conditions ranging from minor sickness, to organ transplants and rare forms of cancer. If funding is reduced and programs are cut, where will these children and families receive the care they need?

Already, Phoenix Children's has been forced to absorb more than \$18 million in funding cuts by the Legislature since 2007. We have managed by cutting operational costs, eliminating our reliance on temporary staff, and even making adjustments to the timeline of our much-needed expansion.

Now, we face even more cuts. If the current state budget passes, we will face an additional \$24 million in cuts. This reduction will be devastating to Phoenix Children's. Specialty clinics may close, staff may be reduced, wait times to receive necessary treatments will increase, use of new technologies will be delayed and critical transfers from around Arizona will be reduced.

We are committed to providing the highest quality of healthcare for Arizona's children. However, we cannot absorb these tremendous budget cuts without it fundamentally changing the way we operate.

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE - and it only takes a few minutes!**

Please call or e-mail your Legislators as soon as possible and urge them to protect Phoenix Children's Hospital so the children of Arizona have access to life-saving care. E-mail addresses, fax numbers and phone numbers for State Senators and Representatives are available on the [Arizona Legislature website](#).

Personalized messages mean the most to our elected officials. If you have a personal story, please share it and let them know why further cuts to Phoenix Children's Hospital will hurt our community.

Here are some key points you could make to Legislators:

- Phoenix Children's Hospital has already incurred more than \$18 million in cuts since 2007. The current Legislative budget would cut funding to them by an additional \$24 million. That is too great a burden for one hospital to bear.
- Phoenix Children's Hospital is an important safety net

resource for the state and needs to be protected.

- Phoenix Children's Hospital serves patients from across the state who are transferred there because it is the closest pediatric hospitals capable of treating their complex conditions.
- Please use the federal stimulus dollars the federal government intended for use by the AHCCCS program - do not use it for other programs.
- Please do not make cuts to healthcare, support it with the intended stimulus money.
- When a child has a devastating disease it is our responsibility to ensure that they have access to lifesaving care.

Thank you for all of your help as we work together to speak up for Arizona's children!

**Sincerely,**

Parent Action Committee  
Phoenix Children's Hospital



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