

# Voices for Georgia's Children's 2012 Priorities

## State Legislative & Regulatory Issues

### *Transitioning & Vulnerable Youth*

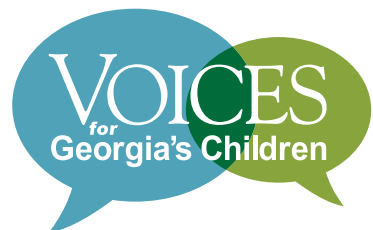
- Passage and implementation of the Child Protection and Public Safety Act (Children's Code Rewrite)
- Effective child abuse reporting/intervention systems
- Policies that help children stay in school and complete their Pre-K-12 education

### *Child Health*

- Best child-related practices in the redesign of Medicaid
- Streamlining the enrollment processes for Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids
- Increasing all children's access to healthcare, including:
  - Benefits to children under the federal Affordable Care Act
  - School nurses/health clinics
  - Returning child-only health insurance policies to GA
  - Fighting childhood obesity
  - Improved access to pediatric dental/oral health care
  - Reduced cost and administrative burdens to healthcare providers
  - Twelve-month eligibility for children on Medicaid

### *Early Childhood (Birth-5 Years)*

- Expanding and improving GA's Pre-K program and childcare services
- Effective home visiting initiatives
- Adequate funding for children's services, including:
  - TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) resources for childcare subsidies
  - Newborn and young child health
  - Developmental screenings




We also support issues championed by our advocacy partners, including:

- Ending child sexual exploitation
- Ending shackling of incarcerated children
- Increasing oversight of psychotropic medications for children
- Flexible parental paid time off
- \$1 increase in GA's Tobacco Tax to deter teen smoking
- Strategic supports for unemployed families

## Federal Legislative & Regulatory Issues

- Federal appointment of an administrator for the US Dept. of Juvenile Justice
- Reauthorization of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act
- Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (No Child Left Behind) with adequate early learning and wrap around provisions
- Adequate federal funding for pediatric residency programs in GA
- Sustained funding for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
- Reauthorization of the Farm Bill, including:
  - Appropriate funding for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
  - Nutrition standards for school lunches
  - Summer feeding program



**Voices is a nonprofit child policy and advocacy organization that envisions a GA where children are safe, healthy, educated, employable, and connected to their family and community. It is our mission to be a powerful, unifying voice for a public agenda that ensures the well being of all of GA's children.**

### VOICES FOR GEORGIA'S CHILDREN

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