

**FLORIDA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
2010 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

CHILD HEALTH

State Action Needed:

- Increase funding to ensure babies are born healthy and develop properly.
- Index Healthy Start and other programs for inflation.
- Fund comprehensive wellness efforts.
- Increase Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women to 200% of the poverty level.
- Reinstate funding for the Black Infant Health Initiative
- Fully fund the Florida KidCare program and draw down all available federal dollars
- Initiate a community wide response to childhood obesity.
- Designate one agency to manage and oversee KidCare.
 - Minority Health Disparities
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CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE

State Action Needed:

- Take full advantage of federal Title IV-E spending for kinship guardianship programs for those children who are IV-E eligible
- All caregivers and case managers must be given adequate skills and resources to guide and support youth in foster care.
- Repeal the discriminatory ban on gay adoption.
- Basic needs must be met for teens leaving foster care.
- Allow Title IV-E expansion to youth leaving foster care.
- Create "Community Charters for Foster Care Action"
- Social workers handle no more than 12 to 15 foster children at any one time
- Agree upon a set of consistent metrics for assessments and communications.
- Continue to fund child welfare services in a way that continues Florida's eligibility for the Title IV-E Waiver

- Revisit reports of previous blue-ribbon commissions and officially adopt or reject their recommendations
- Provide resources to raise Florida's child protection and foster care services to national standards.
- Ensure continued recruitment, training and retainment of social workers and other child welfare personnel
- Ensure every needy child in Florida's protective custody has a guardian ad litem or private legal representation (limited situations).

Recommendations - PRE-K AND EARLY LEARNING

State Action Needed:

- Pass legislation to require pre-k teachers to complete a bachelor's degree by year 2013.
- Money allocated for degreed teachers must follow the teacher rather than program type, allowing for mixed delivery and parent choice.
- Direct the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation and the Department of Education to come forward with an improvement plan to raise Florida's pre-k quality in accordance with national standards.
- Support efforts by current pre-k staff to earn the necessary credentials.
- Improve quality based on proven national standards and the recommendations of experts.
- Increase state investments to get kids off the waiting lists and into care.
- Salaries must be commensurate with the educational levels of staff. Create a career ladder.
- Help parents shop for quality through Quality Rating Systems.
- Mandate all centers be nationally accredited
- Education - General Education Policy
 - o Class Size - Support full implementation of the Constitutional Amendment
 - o Testing - Work to reduce dependence on high stakes testing .
 - o Curriculum requirements -Include African American History in all levels of the educational curriculum.
 - o Graduation Requirements - Develop programs aimed at increasing the graduation rate for students overall and African American Students in particular.

- o Funding
- o Teacher Pay
- o Equal Opportunity

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Recommendations - BEFORE AND AFTER-SCHOOL SERVICES

State Action Needed:

- Dedicate a new state funding source sufficient to meet the needs for after-school programs.
- Direct the Florida Department of Education to pursue all available federal funds.
- Designate one state agency to manage and oversee after-school programs and services.
- Implement quality standards for after-school programs based on recommendations by the Florida Afterschool Network and the National After-School Association.

Recommendations - JUVENILE JUSTICE

State Action needed:

- Invest state dollars in programs that can provide the right services at the right time in the least-restrictive environment
- Florida should increase its commitment to community-based prevention and early intervention services.
- Florida residential facilities should be small, provide quality educational skill-building, health, mental health and substance abuse services.
- Florida must provide more gender-specific programming and provide adequate resources to meet the mental and physical health needs of youth.
- Florida must invest in the human resources that provide quality direct care services to youth
- Develop a statewide action plan to address the problem of minority over-representation.
- Pass legislation implementing the recommendations of the Children's Campaign's *Justice for Girls: Blueprint for Action* and Florida's Blueprint Commission.
- Enact the 2006 Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) recommendations (Report No. 06-13).
- Provide more gender-specific in-school and after-school opportunities.
- Lock-up fewer girls.
- Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice

- Sentencing Guidelines - Minimum/Maximums
- Work to end Racial Profiling
- Zero Tolerance
- Juvenile Record retention, maintenance, sealing, expunging
- Juvenile Facilities (opening or Closing) Look for issues surrounding Dozier School in Jackson County
- Any Bill seeking to apply criminal sanctions to Juvenile conduct or dress standards.

Environmental Justice

1. Toxic Waste Dumping
2. Climate change issues
3. Power plant Development, location and approval (Same regarding Power lines)
4. Green Jobs creation
5. Weatherization and energy efficiency particularly related to individual residential facilities
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Broadband and Internet regulation and availability

1. Telecommunications policy

Higher Education Funding

1. Admissions
2. Affirmative Action
3. FAMU/FAMU Law School

Reapportionment and Redistricting

4. Creation of Committees in the Senate and House
5. Development of Public Input and availability to be involved in planning for Reapportionment
6. Development of capacity for public participation in the redistricting process including public hearings, scheduling and availability of House and Senate information and equipment for the public and organizations to develop redistricting plans of their own.

State Government Procurement regulations

7. Affirmative Action
8. Minority Participation
9. Supplier Diversity

Civil Rights

10. Florida Commission on Human Relations
11. Chapter 760 The Florida Civil Rights Act

Emergency Preparedness

12. Preparedness in under-represented low income and minority communities