



Gov. Kate Brown

Sen. Richard Devlin, Co-Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Rep. Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Sen. Mark Hass, Chair, Senate Finance and Revenue Committee

Rep. Phil Barnhart, Chair, House Revenue Committee

Dear Governor, Senators, and Representatives,

United for Kids advocates represent over 100 organizations and coalitions that work together to make Oregon the “Best Place to be a Kid.” Our individual and collective work to improve the economic security, education, health, and safety of the state’s 860,000 children stand at the center of our efforts. Today, we ask you to join us in making Oregon’s kids, and the programs and services that support them, your priority as well.

The challenges the state’s budget poses to children are real:

- Child Welfare is under-funded for foster placements, staff and lawyers.
- Over 200,000 children are food insecure.
- Over 17,000 low-income children are uninsured.
- Oregon has the third largest class sizes in the nation.
- Over 20,000 kids in Oregon school districts are homeless.
- The opportunity gap has led to persistent disparities in outcomes for kids of color.
- Home visiting reaches only 15% of families who most need it.
- Children of color and those living in rural Oregon receive disparate services.
- Over 360,000 Oregon children live at or near poverty.

Current service levels are inadequate to meet the needs of children. Kids need to see improvements in all areas. We know you understand that the return on investments in children reap rewards for decades to come. These investments must be made now – this session – so that we can stop consigning our children to a mediocre future.

We, the undersigned members of United for Kids, urge you to raise revenue now – not just to balance the budget, but to make the robust commitment of resources necessary to move the needle for kids. We pledge to support you in this effort.

On behalf of Oregon’s children and their families, thank you.

## **United for Kids Partners**

211 Info  
A Better Oregon  
American Association of University Women  
American Lung Association  
American Society for the Positive Care of Children  
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon  
Basic Rights Oregon  
CareOregon  
Causa  
Children First for Oregon  
Children's Institute  
Children's Trust Fund of Oregon  
Coalition of Communities of Color  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon  
Family Forward Oregon  
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon  
Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization  
Impact Northwest  
Juliette's House  
Latino Network  
Neighborhood House  
Neighborhood Partnerships  
Neighbors for Clean Air  
Northwest Mothers Milk Bank  
Oregon AFSCME Council 75  
Oregon ASK  
Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children  
Oregon Center for Christian Voices  
Oregon Center for Public Policy  
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence  
Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials  
Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association  
Oregon Education Association  
Oregon Foster Youth Connection  
Oregon Head Start Association  
Oregon Health Equity Alliance  
Oregon Housing Alliance  
Oregon Latino Health Coalition  
Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers  
Oregon Nurses Association  
Oregon Pediatric Society  
Oregon Primary Care Association  
Oregon Public Health Association  
Oregon Public Health Institute  
Oregon Student Association  
Oregon Women's Rights Coalition  
Our Oregon  
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon  
Partnership for Safety and Justice  
Playworks  
Raise the Wage Oregon  
Reach Out and Read  
SEIU Local 503, OPEU  
Street Trust  
Tax Fairness Oregon  
Tobacco 21  
UFCW Local 555  
Unite Oregon  
Voices Set Free  
Washington County Kids  
Youth, Rights & Justice  
YWCA of Greater Portland