

Gearing Up for the 81st!

TexProtects Legislative Priorities:

Child Protective Services Improvements

1. Increase worker compensation to increase the pool of high retention, high-quality workers with social work or human services degrees.
2. Institute "hire ahead" program to eliminate extended worker vacancies and reduce caseloads.
3. Increase quality of casework by reducing all CPS caseloads in order to implement family centered policies and practice, especially Family Based Safety Services (FBSS) and conservatorship caseloads.
4. Focus resources on family preservation with assistance of the "Strengthening Family Initiative", direct funding to impoverished families.
5. Reduce removal of children by increasing removal of perpetrator, when non-offending caregiver is protective.
6. Expand and increase kinship care assistance program.
7. Increase Educational Standards to improve casework quality and worker retention.
8. Improve supervisory competency by expanding best practices, "training for retention".

Substitute Care Priorities

1. Increase Foster Care Rates for all provider types to increase capacity and cover real costs.
2. Provide Comprehensive Assessments of children entering foster care for best fit placements.
3. Equip foster/adoptive/kinship caregivers with trauma-informed, best practice training to reduce placement "breakdowns" and empower caregivers to help traumatized children.
4. Invest in improved transitional services for foster children "aging-out" of state care.

Child Abuse Prevention Reform

1. Increase prevention investment in evidence-based programs across the lifetime continuum.
2. Appropriate critical funds for effective in-home visitation programs.
3. Invest in sexual abuse prevention programs.
4. Provide funds for rigorous evaluation of effectiveness and Return on Investment for currently state-funded programs lacking evaluation of efficacy and/or cost-benefit analysis.

Cross Group Priorities

1. Provide systems of wraparound funding and remove barriers to integrated funding at state and local levels.
2. Design and Invest in a technology integration system for more effective data sharing between public and private providers, law enforcement, judges, courts, state agencies and other key system stakeholders to minimize duplication of services, provide equal access to case information and promote cooperation and efficiencies among stakeholders.

TexProtects,
The Texas
Association for the
Protection of Children

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TexProtects advocates
for these 3 priority
areas:

- **Prevention:** Increase investment in proven child abuse prevention programs
- **Protection:** Strengthen and reform the CPS system
- **Healing:** Ensure victims receive adequate aftercare

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