



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON

**children
& families**

Raising Voices to Make Every Kid Count

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Budget Repair Bill Offers Sound, Balanced Approach to Revenue Challenges

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) commends Governor Doyle and the State Legislature on their prudent approach to tackling the current budget shortfall in the budget repair bill passed by the Legislature this week.

The bill, which Gov. Doyle is expected to sign soon, contains a number of features that will modernize Wisconsin's revenue system and position the state to prosper beyond the end of the recession, while preserving investments in crucial areas such as health care and early education.

The bill identifies several new revenue sources that will help minimize cuts to key public systems critical to the well-being of children and families. These include implementation of combined reporting, which closes a loophole that has allowed some major corporations to avoid paying state income taxes; and a hospital assessment that will bring hundreds of millions of additional federal dollars into the state. These and other changes proposed by the Governor this week in his biennial budget will go a long way toward bringing Wisconsin's tax system into the 21st century and stabilizing our ability to maintain important public systems, such as education, public safety, and key safety net programs for struggling families. WCCF also lauds policy-makers for closing the funding gap in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program, as they continue to work on measures to protect the integrity of the program.

“The Governor and state legislators deserve a lot of credit for embracing a balanced approach to fixing the budget hole under extremely difficult circumstances,” said Charity Eleson, executive director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. “As we proceed into the biennial budget process, we look forward to working with policy-makers to continue finding innovative ways to minimize the economic downturn's impact on vulnerable children and families by making prudent decisions about revenue and spending.”