



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON

**children
& families**

Raising Voices to Make Every Kid Count

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For Immediate Release 1/31/07 - Statement from Wisconsin Council on Children and Families on Governor Doyle's State of the State

Governor Doyle renewed his commitment in the 2007 State of the State to making Wisconsin children and their families a top priority. The Governor's commitment to health care, education, economic development, and coordinated services to our children will serve Wisconsin well.

Health care for all kids can be achieved in this biennium and BadgerCare Plus makes that happen through the growth of existing, cost effective delivery programs. Increasing the cigarette tax has been proven to stop children from lighting up; this initiative will not only help keep children off nicotine but it will help generate revenue for a healthier Wisconsin.

Spurring the economy with increased opportunity to higher education will improve our economic outlook. In addition, by prioritizing programs that work like SAGE and the Youth Apprenticeship Program we will improve our economy and the ability of our children to succeed tomorrow. We can do better with our school breakfast program, in every school; from Waupaca to Waukesha children simply learn better when they are well fed to start the day.

The creation of one state agency to streamline programs and services that touch the lives of Wisconsin's children every day is a creative way to improve accessibility for parents and make for more efficient services. Raising the status of Wisconsin's vital public structures for children and their families should prove helpful as these programs resolve the challenges of limited federal support.

We look forward to hearing more detail when the Governor releases his budget and we are hopeful the Governor will move forward on programs to improve the achievement gap for children of color like high quality early education and care as well as after-school programs.