

## **Holidays, children and our legislative agenda**

*11/23/2010*

Dear Friends,

With Thanksgiving coming up this week and the rest of the holiday season fast approaching, much of our focus ought to be on our families, our friends and the other ways we are blessed.

But it is also a time when we should think about others so frequently less blessed than we are.

In that spirit, then, please give me a few moments to tell you about our forthcoming work for The Children's Movement of Florida, and especially our [legislative agenda](#) for next year.

That agenda -- crafted through statewide polling and in consultation with experts, bipartisan political leaders, community figures and frontline children's advocates throughout Florida -- is realistic, achievable and (even in this economic environment) affordable.

[Contribute \\$15, \\$25, \\$50 or more so we can continue the vital work necessary to ensure that all children have the help they so desperately need.](#)

Our five proposals focus on each of our initial areas of concentration: Health care and insurance. Enhanced screening and treatment for children who may have special needs. High-quality pre-kindergarten programs. Parent skill-building. Mentoring.

Today, I briefly introduce you to the first element: Health care and insurance.

Our state has the nation's second-highest percentage of uninsured children. More than a half-million of our children do not have health insurance. Children without health insurance are more likely to receive inadequate care and, when they enter a hospital, are 1.5 times more likely to die there.

Our agenda item: Help eligible families access the state's KidCare insurance program, including targeted enrollment efforts in schools -- and consequently provide at least 300,000 more children with health insurance.

So what might be the cost? This agenda item -- and all four of our other items -- will cost a total of about \$300 million a year. That is less than 1 percent of the state's annual revenues. Surely we can find a way to afford that modest level of additional assistance for our children -- all our children.

[Click here to contribute \\$15, \\$25, \\$50 or more so we can continue the vital work necessary to ensure that all children have the help they so desperately need.](#)

In coming weeks, I'll share details of the other four elements of our legislative agenda. But if you want more information now, [visit our agenda page](#).

Meanwhile, I wish for you a blessed and peaceful holiday season.

Thanks for caring...and helping.

Dave Lawrence  
President  
The Children's Movement of Florida

P.S. [Contribute to the Children's Movement of Florida](#). Help us make children the priority in Florida.