Now in its seventh year, the Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (COPC) and its 48 member organizations, advocate for policy and systems change. This year we call on state decision makers to support the following items to secure the health and well being of Washington’s children and families.

• SUPPORT SCHOOL WELLNESS EFFORTS
  PROVIDE HYDRATION STATIONS IN SCHOOLS TO INCREASE TAP WATER CONSUMPTION AMONG WASHINGTON STUDENTS
  As a matter of basic equity, all children should be able to access free regulated drinking water in school. Water intake among children is currently insufficient for improving students’ readiness to learn and limiting excess weight gain. We need funds from the Capital Budget to support necessary infrastructure improvements in the neediest schools for contemporary tap water fountains that will allow students to reuse their own container rather than purchasing costly single-use bottled water or not drink any water at all. This change can also support staff wellness.

  PROVIDE CAPITAL FUNDS FOR SCHOOL KITCHENS TO CONVERT TO SCRATCH COOKING
  Rep. Marcus Riccelli (Spokane) is also looking to tap the Capital Budget to create a fund to support school interested in providing healthier and local foods to students and staff.

• ”HEALTHIEST NEXT GENERATION” BILL
  The Governor has been working with three state agencies: Department of Health, Department of Early Learning and the Office for the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop a bill that would provide staffing to these agencies to develop coordinated plans to prevent childhood obesity.

• DEVELOP STRONGER STANDARDS IN LICENSED CHILD CARE
  Child care settings serve an important role in helping young children develop good eating and physical activity habits. Washington State should develop stronger nutrition, physical activity and screen time standards in all licensed child care settings and the state Department of Early Learning should enhance its training and quality improvement efforts for child care providers that can fully implement these stronger standards.

• SUPPORT “SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS” (SRTS) PROGRAMS & PROJECTS
  SRTS is a unique hybrid initiative that is part program (enabling and encouraging children to walk and bike to school) and part transportation project (creating safer physical environments, i.e., crosswalks). We need to maintain and increase the legislative profile with this critical program, especially sustaining and expanding funding opportunities to meet this growing need.

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CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION COALITION MEMBERS

American Academy of Pediatrics – WA Chapter
American Assoc. of Landscape Architects -- WA Chapter
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Planning Association (WA Chapter)
Arthritis Foundation
Beecher’s Flagship Foundation
Camp Fire USA Central Puget Sound Council
Cascade Bicycle Club Education Foundation
Coalition for Safety and Health in Early Learning
Comprehensive Health Education Foundation (C.H.E.F.)
Children’s Alliance
Feet First
Forterra
Group Health Cooperative
Hope Heart Institute
Let's Move Cheney
MultiCare Health Systems
Nutrition First
Odessa Brown Children’s Clinic
Public Health Roundtable
Physical Therapy Association of Washington
School’s Out Washington
Sea Mar Community Health Centers
Seattle Children’s
Seattle and King County Public Health
Seattle Parks and Recreation
Skagit County Healthy Communities Project
Snohomish Health District
Spokane Regional Health District
Tacoma Pierce County Health Department
Transportation Choices
Washington Action for Healthy Kids
Washington Assoc. of Community & Migrant Health Centers
Washington Bikes
Washington Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
Washington Dental Service Foundation
Washington Health Foundation
Washington Recreation & Park Association
Washington State Nutrition Association
Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officers
Washington State Dairy Council
Washington State PTA
Washington State Public Health Association
Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network
Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital
YMCA – Greater Seattle