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March 3, 2016

**RE: Budget Item – Healthiest Next Generation**

Dear Member,

On behalf of the Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition, a state-wide coalition with 50 member organizations dedicated to protecting our children from the obesity epidemic, we are writing to provide comment on the current budget negotiations for the supplemental 2016 Operating Budget. Our specific interest is achieving sustainable funding for the Healthiest Next Generation positions at the Department of Early Learning and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. This nominal amount of funding was included in both the Governor's budget and the House budget but not in the Senate budget.

Why is this small amount of funding so significant?

- It signifies that child health improvement as a key health priority for both the legislative and executive branch
- Motivates state agencies to maintain their collaboration across and within agencies
- Retains critical staffing not otherwise funded in these key agencies

Let's ensure that our youngest citizens of our state build a healthy foundation for success by supporting those key state agencies with adequate resources. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victor Colman, JD  
Director, Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition  
[vic@copcwa.org](mailto:vic@copcwa.org)

## COALITION MEMBERS

ACTION FOR HEALTHY KIDS – WA CHAPTER  
 AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS – WA CHAPTER  
 AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY – CANCER ACTION NETWORK  
 AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, INC.  
 AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION  
 AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION  
 AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION -- WA CHAPTER  
 ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION  
 BEECHER'S PURE FOOD KIDS FOUNDATION  
 CASCADE BICYCLE CLUB EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
 CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE  
 COALITION FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH IN EARLY LEARNING  
 FEET FIRST  
 FORTERRA  
 FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHY GENERATIONS  
 GROUP HEALTH COOPERATIVE  
 HOPE HEART INSTITUTE  
 LET'S MOVE CHENEY  
 MULTICARE HEALTH SYSTEMS  
 NUTRITION FIRST  
 ODESSA BROWN CHILDREN'S CLINIC  
 PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON  
 PUBLIC HEALTH ROUNDTABLE  
 SAN JUAN COUNTY HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
 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  
 WA ASSOC. OF COMMUNITY & MIGRANT HEALTH CNTRS  
 WASHINGTON BIKES  
 WA COALITION FOR PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY  
 WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE FOUNDATION  
 WASHINGTON RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION  
 WASHINGTON SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION  
 WA ST ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS  
 WA STATE ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS  
 WASHINGTON STATE DAIRY COUNCIL  
 WASHINGTON STATE PTA  
 WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
 WASHINGTON SUSTAINABLE FOOD & FARMING NETWORK  
 WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION  
 WITHINREACH  
 YAKIMA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
 YMCA – GREATER SEATTLE