2020 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The COPC and its 44-member organizations advocate for policy and systems change to secure the health and well-being of all of Washington’s children and families. In the upcoming state legislative session, we are supporting the following bills and budget priorities:

HEALTHY DRINKS, HEALTHY KIDS (HB 2383/SB 6455)  (LEAD ORGANIZATION)
Increased added sugars in children’s diets has contributed to a rise in unhealthy weight and serious health issues in children. COPC is advocating for legislation to make the default beverage in kids’ meals at restaurants and food establishments a non-sugar sweetened beverage. Making the default beverage in kids’ meals a non-sugary drink makes the healthy choice the easy choice for parents and guardians that can establish healthier drinking habits and reduce the risk of childhood obesity.

FUNDING FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION  (CO-LEAD with WA BIKES)
Making walking and biking safe and convenient helps kids and families live healthier lives by seamlessly integrating physical activity in their daily routines. Along with our active transportation partners, we are advocating to protect funding for active transportation strategies (Safe Routes to School, bike and pedestrian grants and network connectivity), which may be under increased scrutiny since the recent passage of I-976.

HEALTH IN ALL PLACES: WA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION (HB 2461/SB 6452)  (CO-LEAD with WA BIKES)
COPC works to integrate health as a consideration in policymaking across sectors to improve the health of people and communities. We are advocating for legislation to include the concept of “health” in the state transportation system policy goals, which will drive new objectives and performance measures.

INCREASE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD  (SUPPORT ORGANIZATION)
Accessing healthy food can be difficult, especially for those who struggle with the typical high cost of healthier foods. We are advocating for funding for programs that improve access to food for individuals with limited incomes including support for food assistance benefit programs and the Fruit & Vegetable Incentive program.

EARLY CHILDHOOD STANDARDS ALIGNMENT  (SUPPORT ORGANIZATION)
Early childhood education plays a significant role in helping kids develop healthy habits in their early, formative years. The Dept of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) recently implemented new licensing standards, which among other things improved standards relating to physical activity, nutrition and screen time. We support DCYF’s request for $3 million in funding to support family home childcare providers with implementation of the aligned licensing rules.

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COALITION MEMBERS

ACTION FOR HEALTHY KIDS – WA CHAPTER
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS – WA CHAPTER
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY’S CANCER ACTION NETWORK
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, INC.
AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
ARCORA
BEECHER’S FOUNDATION
CASCADE BICYCLE CLUB
CHILDREN’S ALLIANCE
COALITION FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH IN EARLY LEARNING
FEET FIRST
FORterra
FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHY GENERATIONS
HEALTHY FOOD AMERICA
HEALTHY KING COUNTY COALITION
KAISER PERMANENTE
MULTICARE HEALTH SYSTEMS
NUTRITION FIRST
ODESSA BROWN CHILDREN’S CLINIC
PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC HEALTH ROUNDTABLE

SAN JUAN COUNTY HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES
SEA MAR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
SEATTLE CHILDREN’S
SEATTLE AND KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
SHAPE WASHINGTON
SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT
SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
TRANSPORTATION CHOICES
WA ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH
WASHINGTON BIKES
WASHINGTON RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION
WASHINGTON SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION
WA STATE ASSN 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 TRAILS ASSOCIATION
WITHINREACH
VIRGINIA MASON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
YMCA – GREATER SEATTLE