

2022 Face It Policy Priorities



Face It is advocating for the following commonsense state policy changes that will help keep children safe:

- ✓ **Eliminate “chain of command” reporting procedures** within public and private agencies to ensure any disclosures of abuse are reported accurately, in a timely manner, and directly to the proper authorities.
- ✓ A gap in state law allows agencies, such as the county attorney, to report a suspected incidence of child abuse and neglect by an employee to their own agency. **Closing this gap in reporting of suspected maltreatment** will ensure the report of child abuse or neglect is properly communicated to the appropriate external agencies, not only the agency who employs the adult suspected of abuse, and investigated.
- ✓ **Require coroners to notify** within a 48-hour window and gather necessary information from law enforcement, the Department for Community Based Services, and the local health department upon the notification of the death of a child under the age of 18.

Face It is advocating for continued or increased investments in the following programs to keep kids safe and support families:

- ✓ The pediatric forensic teams based out of Kentucky’s medical schools, as well as the 15 Children’s Advocacy Centers across the Commonwealth, rely on state funding to provide critical services for all children who have experienced maltreatment. Allocating funding to support both of these programs – **Pediatric Forensic Medicine and the Children’s Advocacy Centers** – will allow for our most vulnerable children to get access to the services they need to heal and have their case investigated.
- ✓ The current rate of reimbursement for **Pediatric Sexual Abuse Forensic Examinations (P-SAFE)** does not adequately cover costs for these complex medical exams. Increasing the rate of reimbursement will allow these centers to adequately provide services and the level of care needed by pediatric sexual assault victims.
- ✓ When expectant parents have access to evidence-based home visiting programs like the **Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS) program** early in their pregnancy, incidences of child abuse are lower and accessing adequate prenatal care increases. Protecting funding for the HANDS program to ensures this critical service is available to and utilized by new parents across Kentucky.
- ✓ A qualified and stable **Department for Community Based Services workforce** is the foundation of the child welfare system. By bolstering investments in recruiting and retaining qualified DCBS staff, Kentucky will increase chances of stability for families and permanency for children and promote smart fiscal outcomes for the state budget.
- ✓ **Safety net programs, including SNAP, WIC, and K-TAP**, play a critical role in making sure families struggling to make ends meet can have food to eat, cover basic needs, and access other supports and services needed to thrive. Protecting current funding for safety net program and ensuring they are not modified will help children access these critical supports.



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