

# Child Protection 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Priorities

## TEXAS CHILD PROTECTION KEY FACTS



- 3** Texas children, most under the age of 3, die each week due to maltreatment.
- 63,657** Texas children were confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect in 2017.
- 16.8%** of Texas children are re-abused within 5 years of confirmed maltreatment.
- 423,000** Texas families with children under 6 are in need of prevention services.
- 1,800,064** Texas children have been exposed to multiple adverse experiences.

### PRIORITIES:

To *prevent* child abuse and neglect, *improve* the CPS system, and *heal* victims after trauma.

1. Strengthen investments in **community-based**, primary child abuse **prevention** programs. HB 1 (DFPS)



- *Scale Nurse-Family Partnership to serve an additional 550 families - \$5.5 million*
- *Expand Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Early Support (HOPES) to serve an additional 1,200 families - \$9.4M*



Reduce child maltreatment and downstream cost associated with abuse.

2. Develop and implement a **statewide strategic plan** to address causes and symptoms of **adverse childhood experiences** (ACES).



- *Facilitate a public health approach through cross systems collaboration that includes child protection, physical and mental health care, education, childcare, & university research partners*
- *Coordinate data, evaluate prevention needs and gaps in services, and identify best practices in existing services*
- *Incorporate research based & trauma informed education, prevention, and intervention, across systems and communities*



Connect Texas systems that prevent child adversity, facilitate healing from childhood trauma, and promote resilience in children.

3. Improve coordination and effectiveness of **services for children at risk** of entering **foster care**. HB 1 (DFPS)



- *Develop and implement a strategic plan to leverage federal funds*
- *Integrate mental health services, substance use prevention and treatment, and in-home parent programs*
- *Improve access to community resources for relative caregivers*



Keep every child with their family, when possible, so they can achieve their greatest potential.

4. Increase **Statewide Intake** (SWI) staff and maintain **CPS staff** caseloads. HB 1 (DFPS)

**HOW?**

- Reduce SWI hold times for timely reports & response (16.5 to 8.5 min)- \$9M
- Maintain manageable caseloads for Conservatorship (23/worker), Kinship (29/worker), and Foster to Adopt (17/worker) - \$96.8M

**WHY?**

Reduce the risk of unreported child maltreatment and lower caseloads to better ensure every child is safe and secure.

5. Improve **pregnant and parenting foster youth** policies and practices. HB 473, HB 474, HB 475 Rep. Donna Howard

**HOW?**

- Make available evidence-based parent education
- Strengthen supports and tools
- Advance best practices placements

**WHY?**

Strengthen parent attachment to reduce intergenerational cycle of abuse and neglect.

6. Invest in **housing options** and **support services** for former foster youth. HB 1 (DFPS)

**HOW?**

- Strengthen Supervised Independent Living (SIL) services and case management for older youth with complex needs- \$1.4M

**WHY?**

Create opportunities for young adults to be self-sufficient and successful.

**Our Mission**

To prevent and reduce child abuse and neglect through research, education, and advocacy.

**WE WORK ACROSS THE CHILD PROTECTION CONTINUUM**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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