



ADVOCACY UPDATES



COLORADO UPDATES

Our Legislative Priorities: What to Expect in 2018

This week, Colorado's 71st General Assembly kicked off the 2018 Second Regular Session. Since last summer, we have been networking with legislators and other stakeholders to lay the groundwork for policy priorities that will continue to improve the quality of life for Colorado children and families. As we head into the 2018 session, the Kempe Foundation has three primary legislative priorities:



1. **Strengthening our Foster Care System.** We want to identify areas where better support is needed for foster care kids, parents, and families to create an environment where they can thrive.
2. **Access to Mental Health Services for Kids.** We want to see the Colorado Child Mental Health Treatment Act reauthorized so it can serve additional children.
3. **Budget Support for Prevention, Intervention, and Wrap Around Services.** We want to ensure continued funding for [SafeCare Colorado](#) and the [Child Welfare Training System](#), along with the Tony Grampsas Youth Services grant program of which [Fostering Health Futures](#) is a recipient.

Click [here](#) to learn more about our 2018 legislative priorities.

Kempe to Host Legislative Reception

On Jan. 29, Kempe will host Colorado legislators at a special reception where they will have an opportunity to learn about priority areas for keeping children and families safe. This year's Legislative Co-Hosts for the reception are Sen. Larry Crowder, Sen. Rhonda Fields, Rep. James Coleman and Rep. Kim Ransom. Follow us on social media @kempefoundation for updates and photos from the event.



Support Our Work at the Capitol

You can help us accomplish our public policy goals by speaking out and speaking up about protecting children and families. Here are a few ways to get involved this year:

- **Get to Know Your Legislators.** Colorado's 65 Representatives and 35 Senators are listed [here](#). Visit their websites and follow them on social media to learn their interests, politics and background.
- **Educate Your Legislators.** By sharing your opinions and ideas with your Representatives and Senators, you help them decide what to do about the issues and pending legislation that affect us all. Contact your legislator about a particular issue before the Legislature takes action on it. Explore the current bills [here](#).
- **Attend a Committee Hearing.** Do you care about a certain bill? The public is allowed to attend hearings and support or oppose a bill. All committee schedules and bill schedules are listed on the Colorado General Assembly website [here](#).

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For more information about The Kempe Foundation Advocacy Network, contact [John Faught](#).