



# ADVOCACY UPDATES

## Kempe is Propelling Child-Focused Policies Forward

March is an important time of year for Kempe as the Colorado legislature ramps up its budget discussions. Here is our latest update on Kempe's policy priorities currently up for consideration.



### COLORADO UPDATES

## Priority: Child Welfare Training System and SafeCare

We are pleased to share that on February 15th, the Joint Budget Committee approved \$6,659,417 in funding for child welfare training. This money will help pay for the Child Welfare Training System, which Kempe contracts with the Department of Human Services to run.

**Status:** APPROVED

Additionally, on March 7th, the Joint Budget Committee approved continued funding for SafeCare – a successful prevention program run by Kempe.

**Status:** APPROVED

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## Priority: Increase in County Child Welfare Caseworkers

A four-year effort by the Department of Human Services to increase county child welfare staff has resulted in 267 new county caseworkers being added to Colorado's child welfare system. With this year's approval of \$6,185,029 in funding, the Department will now be able to add an additional 100 caseworkers.

**Status:** APPROVED

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## Priority: Child Mental Health Treatment Act

On March 6th, the six members of the Joint Budget Committee unanimously approved

a request for an additional \$125,787 General Fund to address increases in the number of children who are eligible for behavioral health care under the Child Mental Health Treatment Act. This funding is on top of the \$524,864 General Fund requested during FY 2017-18 for the program for a grand total of \$650,651. This money will directly benefit the HB 1094 which reauthorize and expands the Child Mental Health Treatment Act.

**Status:** APPROVED

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## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

National Child Abuse Prevention Month continues to raise the importance of individuals and communities working together to keep kids safe and families healthy. This April, Kempe will be focused on strengthening our relationships with Colorado's legislators and working to propel child-focused policies forward.

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