

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

2017 Legislative Priorities

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa strengthens families for Iowa's future. We believe that healthy, vibrant communities provide nurturing environments for kids. Our statewide network provides expertise in child abuse prevention to create a stronger, healthier Iowa.

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa requests consideration of the following legislative actions in support of Iowa's children and families.



- 1) **Enact legislation to continued funding of research of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in Iowa through the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).** The Center for Disease Control currently partners with the Iowa Department of Public Health to collect important information from adult Iowans regarding their health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, use of preventive services, and experiences in their childhood. This important information helps guide policy and adopt practices addressing the social determinants of health in our state.

PCA Iowa asks the legislature to continue funding of ACEs data through the BRFSS.



- 2) **Expand funding for Iowa's 1st Five Initiative.** For almost a decade, Iowa has developed and expanded a distinctive partnership between public health staff and private health providers called 1st Five. This partnership seeks to ensure the healthy mental development of children from birth to five years old. Trained health providers refer children with possible social, emotional, or developmental delays to 1st Five care coordinators, who help families access services needed to address identified concerns and reduce the risk of child abuse.

PCA Iowa asks the Iowa Legislature for state-wide funding of 1st Five.



- 3) **Support Erin's Law.** Erin's Law is named after childhood sexual assault survivor activist Erin Merryn. Iowa is one of 17 states that have not yet enacted Erin's Law as one method of preventing sexual abuse of children. Erin's Law requires that all public schools in each state implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program that teaches age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and resource information to support sexually abused children and their families.

PCA Iowa requests the Iowa legislature to enact Erin's Law in Iowa.



- 4) **Adopt the following definition of “Drug Endangered Child”** to offer as a standard for groups across the State of Iowa to use. PCA Iowa is not recommending this definition be part of Iowa Code, but rather a guideline for all discussion of drug endangered children in Iowa.

"Drug endangered child" means: A child whose health, safety, or welfare is endangered or threatened as a result of any dangerous substance activity in the presence of the child as defined in Iowa Code sections 232.2(6)(o), 232.2(6)(p), 232.68(2)(a)(6), and 232.68(2)(a)(7).*

PCA Iowa requests the legislature to use this definition in committee meetings and work group discussions pertaining drug endangered children.*



- 5) **Enact changes to Iowa Code Section 232.2(6) “Child in need of assistance”**: additions to the definition of “dangerous substance” to include:

Cocaine, its salts, isomers, salts of its isomers, or derivatives; Heroin, its salts, isomers, salts of its isomers, or derivatives; and Opiate, Opium, their salts, isomers, esters, ethers, or salts of its isomers, esters, or ethers, or derivatives.

PCA Iowa asks the Iowa legislature to accept these changes to Iowa Code section 232.2(6) in order to improve access to interventions for kids exposed to dangerous substances in the home. *



- 6) **Enact changes to the definition of “Child abuse” or “abuse” in Iowa Code section 232.68(2)(a)** to include unlawful using, possessing, manufacturing, cultivating, or distributing a dangerous substance as defined in Iowa Code section 232.2(6) and as modified in #5 above.*

PCA Iowa asks the Iowa legislature to accept these changes to Iowa Code section 232.68(2)(a) to improve access to interventions for kids exposed to dangerous substances in the home.*



- 7) **Enact an amendment to Iowa Code section 232.77 (mandatory reporter code for full compliance with federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act)** to require a health care provider involved in the delivery or care of an infant affected by any substance abuse, or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder to notify the department of the occurrence of such condition of an infant.*

PCA Iowa asks the Iowa legislature to accept this change to Iowa Code section 232.77 to improve access to interventions for infants and their mothers struggling with addiction. *

**These support the recommendations proposed by the Drug Endangered Children Workgroup*