

Advocacy: Through **community relationships and health programs**, we work to speak up for and protect our children.

Children's Hospital is a voice for children

The focus of our lobbying efforts in 2011 was advocating on behalf of children before the administration and legislature as they worked on the 2011-2013 state budget. Through our efforts, we protected reimbursement for hospital-based services for children and experienced minimal cuts to other programs. During the state budget debate, we advocated for and educated elected officials about many of our programs, including inpatient and outpatient hospital care, as well as:

- Wisconsin Poison Center.
- Child Advocacy Centers.
- Children's Community Health Plan.
- Foster care and adoption services.

In this fiscal climate, and in the face of many cuts to the state funding of programs elsewhere, our advocacy and education made a difference.

In addition, several pieces of public policy were supported, modified or influenced with the help of our partners and advocates:

Senate Bill 42 – Requires all school employees to **report suspected child abuse or neglect**, and protects the reporter from disciplinary action or threats of disciplinary action or discharge from employment. It also requires that school district employees receive training in identifying abuse or neglect in the first 6 months of employment, as well as once every 5 years after the initial training.

Senate Bill 45 – Eliminates current state mandates on the **administration of medication to pupils in the school setting**. Under this bill, authorized individuals can administer over-the-counter drugs as well as prescription drugs even if the drug was not supplied by the parent or guardian.

Senate Bill 204 – Permits a student while in school, at a school event or under the supervision of a school authority to **possess and use an epinephrine auto**

injector if the pupil uses the injector to prevent the onset or alleviate the symptoms of an emergency situation.

Concealed Carry – Wisconsin passed a concealed carry law in 2011. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin's Child Advocacy Network advocates made more than 200 contacts to elected officials on this legislation. Along with other hospital partners and advocates throughout the state, we pushed for modifications that provided for licensure, training and education. In addition, because of advocacy efforts, the bill allows organizations to post signs to keep weapons out of their buildings.

Concussion – Children's Hospital of Wisconsin was pivotal in the passage of the Youth Sports Concussion Protection Legislation. We developed and managed a coalition of more than 25 groups interested in the legislation, including pediatric health providers, coaches, health and sports professionals, the NFL and the Green Bay Packers. Our staff directed the legislative lobbying, grassroots and public awareness campaigns.

Federal advocacy

Our federal advocacy efforts focused on Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education funding. We also educated our federal delegation on the importance of the Medicaid program to our state, our hospital and the patients we serve. Thanks to advocacy efforts during the debt-ceiling debate, critical programs like Medicaid were saved from immediate cuts.



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