



CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND ACTION COUNCIL

2009 North Dakota Legislative Scorecard



Children's Defense Fund Action Council 2009 North Dakota Scorecard

People are North Dakota's greatest asset. Children are our biggest source of future wealth. Yet, in these economically difficult times, when measuring assets and restoring wealth are at the forefront of policy debate, children are often overlooked. Because children cannot advocate or speak for themselves, one of society's greatest responsibilities is to ensure all children's basic needs are met so they have the opportunity to thrive.

A necessary element to reaching this goal is investing in children. Wise investments in children come back to us many-fold in the form of well-prepared workers and community leaders and reduced spending for public assistance, corrections and chronic health care.

For these reasons, the Children's Defense Fund Action Council (CDF Action Council) produced this scorecard as a tool for concerned citizens to use in their interactions with lawmakers on behalf of children.

This scorecard provides information on votes from the 2009 legislative session that reflect key priorities of the CDF Action Council including children's health coverage, access to quality early care and education and ending childhood poverty (see *Why These Votes Are Important* for more information on the Action Council's priorities).

Selecting bills for a scorecard is often difficult. Many specific provisions relating to children are frequently included in large omnibus bills covering a wider range of issues. A vote for or against a particular bill does not always tell the full story. Therefore, be sure to talk to your legislators about their votes and why they are important to you.

CDF Action Council's primary goal is to educate the public and provide a voice for children to ensure that children are a top priority as lawmakers debate hundreds of policies each year. **The scorecard and its**



scores should not be interpreted as an endorsement of—or opposition to—any legislator.

With a projected surplus for the 2011 legislative session and much to do to ensure all children's basic needs are met, advocating on behalf of North Dakota's most precious resource is as important now as ever. CDF Action Council encourages you to use this document to let your lawmakers know what you think about their votes and how you hope they will work to improve the lives of North Dakota's youngest residents.

Missed Opportunity: Children's Health Coverage Expansion

The stars seemed to be aligned for a significant children's health coverage expansion last session, but in the end, minimal progress was made. Governor

Hoeven included an increase in the eligibility level for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) from 150% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) to 200% FPG in his budget. North Dakota had a \$470 million budget surplus, part of which was the proposed funding mechanism for the expansion. Increasing eligibility to 200% FPG would have provided access to nearly 1,200 low-income uninsured children. Despite agreement between the House and Senate via a conference committee to expand coverage to 200% FPG, the measure failed on the House floor. A slight increase to 160% FPG was ultimately enacted.

There are 13,000 uninsured children in North Dakota. We cannot rest until all North Dakota children have access to affordable, quality health coverage. See *Why These Votes Are Important* for more on the importance of children's health coverage.

Why These Votes Are Important

Smart investments in children are an investment in North Dakota's future. By ensuring children have a strong foundation, they are more likely to grow up healthy, thrive in school and become contributing adults. With that in mind, the CDF Action Council used the areas below to select the votes to highlight in this scorecard.

Ending Childhood Poverty and Stabilizing Families (House Votes 1, 2, 3, 4 and Senate Votes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

Children need a sound foundation to thrive, and North Dakota's long-term prosperity depends on children thriving. Poverty is a key indicator of how we are faring on behalf of children because it is so inextricably tied with children's basic needs. Being poor as a child makes it harder to establish a healthy foundation for future growth. Low-income families are often forced to choose among basic necessities, such as food, heat and medical attention.

Yet, 15% (21,000) of North Dakota children live in poverty.

Investments in public supports—such as energy assistance, food support, health care and quality early care and education—are crucial to offsetting the long-term effects poverty can have on a child. With strong public commitment, including from our elected officials, we can eliminate childhood poverty.



Children's Health Coverage (Senate Vote 1; House Vote 1)

Good health is a necessary part of a strong start for children, and health coverage is the first step to good health. Children who have health care coverage are more likely than children without health coverage to get preventive services, immunizations and necessary medical services. Insured children miss less school and perform better in school than uninsured children. In short, health coverage is critical to children's ability to thrive and become healthy, contributing adults.

Despite the importance of health coverage, 13,000 North Dakota children and more than eight million children nationwide are uninsured. Ensuring that all children have health coverage would be returned many-fold in future earnings, decreased health care expenditures and improved health in adulthood.

Early Care and Education (Senate Votes 3, 4, 5, 6; House Votes 2, 3, 4)

At the root of a strong, productive society are wise investments in children. Research has shown that a key area for such investments is early care and education. Access to quality early care and education helps ensure children are in stimulating, nurturing environments, which is essential to building a strong foundation for children's development. Economist Art Rolnick of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank has determined that the public receives up to \$12 back for every \$1 invested in high quality early childhood programs. Investing in quality early care and education helps children get the start they need and produces significant long-term benefits to children, communities and society as a whole.

Senate Votes

Vote 1: Children's Health Coverage

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

HB 1478, introduced by Senators Stenehjem and O'Connell and Representatives Carlson and Boucher, increased the eligibility level for the North Dakota Children's Health Insurance Program from 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) to 200% FPG (\$44,100 for a family of four), providing coverage for nearly 1,200 uninsured children. HB 1478 *passed* in the Senate 45 to 1 (*Senate Journal*, page 1218, April 9, 2009). The increase to 200% FPG was agreed to by the House-Senate conference committee, but failed on the House floor. Ultimately, a modest eligibility increase to 160% FPG (\$35,280 for a family of four) was enacted.

Vote 2: State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

SB 2379, introduced by Senators Mathern and Triplett and Representatives N. Johnson, Vig and Boucher, would provide individuals filing income taxes in North Dakota with an income tax credit equal to 20 percent of his or her federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC is one of the most effective anti-poverty measures. State EITCs supplement the federal EITC, further helping low-income working families struggling to make ends meet. SB 2379 *failed* 25 to 18 (*Senate Journal*, page 351, February 10, 2009) and was not voted on by the House.

Vote 3: Head Start Expansion

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

SB 2381, introduced by Senators Horne, Grindberg and Wardner and Representatives Hawken, Kaldor and Meier, allocated \$3 million in general fund dollars to provide grants to federally designated Head Start programs in North Dakota. Head Start provides low-income children and their families with comprehensive early education, health, nutrition, child care, parent involvement, and social services with the goal of ensuring children are prepared for school and helping families achieve self-sufficiency. Due to limited funding, North Dakota Head Start programs are unable to serve 35% of eligible children, according to 2008 KIDS COUNT data. The legislation *failed* in the Senate 22 to 24 (*Senate Journal*, page 531, February 19, 2009) and was not voted on by the House.

Vote 4: Child Care Quality Improvement Grants

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

HB 1418, introduced by Senators Fiebiger, Krebsbach and Wardner and Representatives Hawken, Martinson and Mueller, allocated \$3.5 million in federal stimulus dollars for quality improvement grants to raise the overall quality of child care programs. The legislation links providers to resources for training and professional development and parents to resources such as Child Care Resource and Referral. The final legislation does not include a quality rating system, which has raised some concerns about allocating "quality" dollars without a standardized measurement system to provide uniformity and accountability, but the legislation is a good step in the right direction. HB 1418 *passed* 41 to 5 (*Senate Journal*, page 1239, April 10, 2009) and was signed into law by Governor Hoeven.

Vote 5: Afterschool Programming

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

HB 1276, introduced by Senators Bakke and Flakoll and Representatives Kelsch, Delmore, Kingsbury and Vigesaas, appropriated \$1 million to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for grants to school districts for afterschool learning programs allowing schools to add 1,500 new students from high poverty areas to the already 5,000 enrolled in afterschool programs. Afterschool programs provide a structured environment for children and youth during discretionary, non-school time, which has been shown to produce positive outcomes in school performance as well as social-emotional benefits. HB 1276 *failed* in the Senate 23 to 23 (*Senate Journal*, page 1216, April 9, 2009).

Vote 6: Early Childhood Advisory Board

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

HB 1472, introduced by Representatives Thoreson, Berg, Hofstad and Wieland and Senators Flakoll and Horne, establishes an Early Childhood Services Advisory Board. The duties of the Early Childhood Services Advisory Board include advising the Department of Human Services regarding a review of all early childhood services rules which must be completed by August 1, 2010 and make recommendations to the Department based on the review. In addition, the Advisory Council is directed to make ongoing recommendations to the Department with the goal of streamlining and improving the quality of early childhood services. The Early Childhood Advisory Board is a step toward creating an infrastructure that promotes access to quality early childhood programs. HB 1472 *passed* in the Senate 46 to 1 (*Senate Journal*, page 870, March 19, 2009) and was signed into law by Governor Hoeven.

House Votes

Vote 1: Children's Health Coverage Conference Committee Report

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

HB 1478, introduced by Senators Stenehjem and O'Connell and Representatives Carlson and Boucher, increased the eligibility level for the North Dakota Children's Health Insurance Program from 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) to 200% FPG (\$44,100 for a family of four), providing coverage for nearly 1,200 of North Dakota's 14,000 uninsured children. This scorecard includes the House vote on the conference committee report, which was the agreement between the House and Senate to increase eligibility to 200% FPG, which *failed* in the House 41 to 47 (*House Journal*, page 1624, April 24, 2009). Ultimately, a modest eligibility increase to 160% FPG (\$35,280 for a family of four) was enacted.

Vote 2: Child Care Quality Improvement Grants

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

HB 1418, introduced by Senators Fiebigger, Krebsbach and Wardner and Representatives Hawken, Martinson and Mueller, allocated \$3.5 million in federal stimulus dollars for quality improvement grants to raise the overall quality of child care programs. The legislation links providers to resources for training and professional development and parents to resources such as Child Care Resource and Referral. The final legislation does not include a quality rating system, which has raised some concerns about allocating "quality" dollars without a standardized measurement system to provide uniformity and accountability, but the legislation is a good first step in the right direction. HB 1418 *passed* 77 to 15 (*House Journal*, page 1486, April 16, 2009) and was signed into law by Governor Hoeven.

Vote 3: Afterschool Programming

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

HB 1276, introduced by Senators Bakke and Flakoll and Representatives Kelsch, Delmore, Kingsbury and Vigesaa, appropriated \$1 million to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for grants to school districts for afterschool learning programs allowing schools to add 1,500 new students from high poverty areas to the already 5,000 enrolled in afterschool programs. Afterschool programs provide a structured environment for children and youth during discretionary, non-school time, which has been shown to produce positive outcomes in school performance as well as social-emotional benefits. HB 1276 *passed* in the House 69 to 24 (*House Journal*, page February 18, 9 2009), but ultimately failed in the Senate.

Vote 4: Early Childhood Advisory Board

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

HB 1472, introduced by Representatives Thoreson, Berg, Hofstad and Wieland and Senators Flakoll and Horne, establishes an Early Childhood Services Advisory Board. The duties of the Early Childhood Services Advisory Board include advising the Department of Human Services regarding a review of all early childhood services rules, which must be completed by August 1, 2010, and make recommendations to the Department based on the review. In addition, the Advisory Council is directed to make ongoing recommendations to the Department with the goal of streamlining and improving the quality of early childhood services. The Early Childhood Advisory Board is a step toward creating an infrastructure that promotes access to quality early childhood programs. HB 1472 *passed* in the House 74 to 16 (*House Journal*, page 1427, April 14, 2009) and was signed into law by Governor Hoeven.



North Dakota Senate Scorecard 2009

Senator	Party	District	Hometown	Children's Health Coverage	EITC	Head Start Expansion	Child Care Quality Improvement	Afterschool Program Funding	Early Childhood Advisory Board	Rating
Anderson, Arden C.	D	25	Forman	+	-	+	+	+	+	83%
Andrist, John M.	R	2	Crosby	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Bakke, JoNell A.	D	43	Grand Forks	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Behm, Arthur H.	D	19	Niagra	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Bowman, Bill	R	39	Bowman	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%
Christmann, Randel	R	33	Hazen	+	-	-	-	-	+	33%
Cook, Dwight	R	34	Mandan	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Dever, Dick	R	32	Bismarck	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Dotzenrod, Jim	D	26	Wyndmere	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Erbele, Robert S.	R	28	Lehr	+	-	-	-	-	-	17%
Fiebiger, Tom	D	45	Fargo	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Fischer, Tom	R	46	Fargo	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Flakoll, Tim	R	44	Fargo	+	-	+	+	+	+	83%
Freborg, Layton W.	R	8	Underwood	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Grindberg, Tony S.	R	41	Fargo	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Heckaman, Joan	D	23	New Rockford	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Hogue, David	R	38	Minot	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Holmberg, Ray	R	17	Grand Forks	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Horne, Robert M.	D	3	Minot	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Kilzer, Ralph L.	R	47	Bismarck	+	-	-	-	-	+	33%
Klein, Jerry	R	14	Fessenden	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Krauter, Aaron	D	31	Regent	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Krebsbach, Karen K.	R	40	Minot	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Lee, Gary A.	R	22	Casselton	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Lee, Judy	R	13	West Fargo	+	-	+	+	-	+	67%
Lindaas, Elroy N.	D	20	Mayville	+	MV	+	+	+	+	100%

Key: "+" means the member voted with the CDF Action Council position; "-" means the member voted against the CDF Action Council position. "MV" means the member missed the vote; missed votes are not used in calculating the legislators' percentages.

North Dakota Senate Scorecard 2009

Senator	Party	District	Hometown	Children's Health Coverage	EITC	Head Start Expansion	Child Care Quality Improvement	Afterschool Program Funding	Early Childhood Advisory Board	Rating
Lyson, Stanley W.	R	1	Williston	+	-	-	-	-	+	33%
Marcellais, Richard*	D	9	Belcourt	MV	MV	MV	MV	MV	+	--
Mathern, Tim	D	11	Fargo	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Miller, Joe	R	16	Park River	+	-	-	+	+	+	67%
Nelson, Carolyn	D	21	Fargo	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Nething, Dave	R	12	Jamestown	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Nodland, George	R	36	Dickinson	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
O'Connell, David	D	6	Landsford	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Oehlke, Dave	R	15	Devils Lake	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Olafson, Curtis	R	10	Edinburg	+	MV	-	+	+	+	80%
Pomeroy, Jim	D	27	Fargo	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Potter, Tracy	D	35	Bismarck	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Robinson, Larry J.	D	24	Valley City	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Schneider, Mac	D	42	Grand Forks	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Seymour, Tom	D	5	Minot	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Stenehjem, Bob	R	30	Bismarck	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Taylor, Ryan M.	D	7	Towner	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Triplett, Constance	D	18	Grand Forks	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Wanzek, Terry M.	R	29	Jamestown	+	MV	-	+	-	+	60%
Wardner, Rich	R	37	Dickinson	+	-	-	+	-	+	50%
Warner, John M.	D	4	Ryder	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%

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*The Action Council did not provide a rating for Sen. Marcellais because the Senator was only present for one of the six included votes.

North Dakota House Scorecard 2009

Representative	Party	District	Hometown	Children's Health Coverage	Child Care Quality Improvement	Afterschool Program Funding	Early Childhood Advisory Board	Rating
Amerman, Bill	D	26	Forman	+	+	+	-	75%
Bellew, Larry	R	38	Minot	-	-	-	+	25%
Belter, Wesley R.	R	22	Mapleton	-	-	-	+	25%
Berg, Rick	R	45	Fargo	-	MV	+	+	67%
Boe, Tracy	D	9	Mylo	+	+	+	+	100%
Boehning, Randy	R	27	Fargo	-	+	+	+	75%
Boucher, Merle	D	9	Rolette	+	+	+	MV	100%
Brandenburg, Mike	R	28	Edgeley	-	+	+	+	75%
Carlson, Al	R	41	Fargo	-	+	+	+	75%
Clark, Donald L.	R	44	Fargo	-	+	-	+	50%
Conklin, Tom	D	4	Douglas	+	+	+	+	100%
Conrad, Kari L.	D	3	Minot	+	+	+	-	75%
Dahl, Stacey	R	42	Grand Forks	+	+	+	+	100%
Damschen, Chuck	R	10	Hampden	-	-	-	+	25%
DeKrey, Duane	R	14	Pettibone	-	+	+	+	75%
Delmore, Lois	D	43	Grand Forks	+	+	+	-	75%
Delzer, Jeff	R	8	Underwood	-	-	-	+	25%
Dosch, Mark A.	R	32	Bismarck	-	+	+	+	75%
Drovdal, David	R	39	Arnegard	-	-	-	+	25%
Ekstrom, Mary	D	11	Minot	+	+	+	-	75%
Frantsvog, Robert	R	40	Minot	MV	+	+	+	100%
Froelich, Rod	D	31	Selfridge	+	+	+	-	75%
Froseth, Glen	R	6	Kenmare	MV	-	+	+	67%
Glassheim, Eliot	D	18	Grand Forks	+	+	+	+	100%
Grande, Bette B.	R	41	Fargo	-	+	+	+	75%
Griffin, Chris	D	19	Larimore	+	+	+	+	100%
Gruchalla, Edmund	D	45	Fargo	+	+	+	-	75%
Hanson, Lyle	D	12	Jamestown	+	+	+	-	75%
Hatlestad, Patrick R.	R	1	Williston	-	+	+	+	75%
Hawken, Kathy	R	46	Fargo	+	+	+	+	100%
Headland, Craig	R	29	Montpelier	-	+	-	+	50%
Heller, Brenda	R	33	Beulah	-	-	-	+	25%
Hofstad, Curt	R	15	Devils Lake	-	+	+	+	75%
Holman, Richard	D	20	Mayville	+	+	+	+	100%

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North Dakota House Scorecard 2009

Representative	Party	District	Hometown	Children's Health Coverage	Child Care Quality Improvement	Afterschool Program Funding	Early Childhood Advisory Board	Rating
Hunskor, Bob	D	6	Newburg	+	+	+	+	100%
Johnson, Dennis	R	15	Devils Lake	-	+	+	+	75%
Johnson, Nancy	R	37	Dickinson	+	+	+	+	100%
Kaldor, Lee	D	20	Mayville	+	+	+	+	100%
Karls, Karen	R	35	Bismarck	-	+	+	+	75%
Kasper, Jim	R	46	Fargo	-	+	-	-	25%
Keiser, George J.	R	47	Bismarck	+	+	+	+	100%
Kelsch, RaeAnn G.	R	34	Mandan	-	+	+	+	75%
Kelsh, Jerry	D	26	Fullerton	+	+	+	-	75%
Kelsh, Scot	D	11	Fargo	+	+	+	MV	100%
Kempenich, Keith	R	39	Bowman	-	MV	-	MV	0%
Kerzman, James	D	31	Mott	+	+	+	-	75%
Kilichowski, Robert	D	16	Minto	+	+	+	+	100%
Kingsbury, Joyce	R	16	Grafton	-	+	+	+	75%
Klein, Matthew M.	R	40	Minot	-	+	-	+	50%
Klemin, Lawrence R.	R	47	Bismarck	-	+	+	+	75%
Koppelman, Kim	R	13	West Fargo	-	+	-	+	50%
Kreidt, Gary	R	33	New Salem	-	+	-	+	50%
Kretschmar, William E.	R	28	Venturia	MV	+	+	+	100%
Kroeber, Joe	D	12	Jamestown	+	+	+	-	75%
Martinson, Bob	R	35	Bismarck	+	+	+	+	100%
Meier, Lisa	R	32	Bismarck	+	+	+	+	100%
Metcalf, Ralph	D	24	Valley City	+	+	+	+	100%
Meyer, Shirley	D	36	Dickinson	+	+	+	+	100%
Mock, Corey	D	42	Grand Forks	+	+	+	+	100%
Monson, David	R	10	Osnabrock	-	+	+	+	75%
Mueller, Phillip	D	24	Valley City	+	+	+	-	75%
Myxter, Lee	D	27	Fargo	+	+	+	+	100%
Nathe, Michael R.	R	30	Bismarck	-	-	-	+	25%
Nelson, Jon	R	7	Rugby	-	+	-	+	50%
Nottestad, Darrell D.	R	43	Grand Forks	MV	+	+	-	67%
Onstad, Kenton	D	4	Parshall	+	+	+	-	75%
Pietsch, Vonnie	R	22	Casselton	-	+	-	+	50%
Pinkerton, Louis	D	5	Minot	+	+	+	+	100%

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Representative	Party	District	Hometown	Children's Health Coverage	Child Care Quality Improvement	Afterschool Program Funding	Early Childhood Advisory Board	Rating
Pollert, Chet	R	29	Carrington	-	-	-	+	25%
Porter, Todd	R	34	Mandan	-	+	+	+	75%
Potter, Louise	D	17	Grand Forks	+	+	+	+	100%
Ruby, Dan J.	R	38	Minot	-	-	-	-	0%
Rust, David S.	R	2	Tioga	-	-	+	+	50%
Schatz, Mike	R	36	New England	-	+	-	+	50%
Schmidt, Arlo	D	7	Maddock	+	+	+	+	100%
Schneider, Jasper J.	D	21	Fargo	+	+	+	+	100%
Skarphol, Bob	R	2	Tioga	-	-	MV	+	33%
Sukut, Gary	R	1	Williston	-	+	+	+	75%
Svedjan, Ken	R	17	Grand Forks	-	-	+	+	50%
Thoreson, Blair	R	44	Fargo	-	+	-	+	50%
Thorpe, Elwood	D	5	Minot	+	+	+	MV	100%
Uglen, Gerry	R	19	Northwood	-	+	+	+	75%
Vig, Benjamin A.	D	23	Sharon	+	+	+	-	75%
Vigesaa, Don	R	23	Cooperstown	-	+	+	+	75%
Wald, Francis J.	R	37	Dickinson	-	+	-	+	50%
Wall, John D.	R	25	Wahpeton	-	+	+	+	75%
Weiler, Dave	R	30	Bismarck	-	-	-	+	25%
Weisz, Robin	R	14	Hurdsfield	-	+	+	+	75%
Wieland, Alon	R	13	West Fargo	MV	+	-	+	67%
Williams, Clark	D	25	Wahpeton	MV	+	+	+	100%
Winrich, Lonny	D	18	Grand Forks	+	+	+	+	100%
Wolf, Lisa	D	3	Minot	+	+	+	+	100%
Wrangham, Dwight	R	8	Bismarck	-	-	-	+	25%
Zaiser, Steven L.	D	21	Fargo	+	+	+	+	100%

Key: "+" means the member voted with the CDF Action Council position; "-" means the member voted against the CDF Action Council position. "MV" means the member missed the vote; missed votes are not used in calculating the legislators' percentages.

Help Ensure All Children's Basic Needs Are Met

BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR NORTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN

Children need a strong foundation to thrive and North Dakota needs successful children to prosper, yet:

- 21,000 of North Dakota's children live in poverty (\$22,050 for a family of four)
- There are 13,000 uninsured children in North Dakota
- There are more than 500 children—the approximate population of some of our towns including Berthhold, Towner, Finely or McClusky—on waiting lists for Head Start, a comprehensive program for low-income children and their families

Children's Defense Fund North Dakota is looking for child advocates for the 2011 legislative session to:

- Stay informed on the child-related issues
- Call or e-mail your legislator regarding child-related legislation
- Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper
- Participate in conference calls each Friday to receive weekly legislative updates

Help Children's Defense Fund North Dakota meet its goal of three child advocates for each legislative district and advocate on issues such as:

- Expanding access to children's health coverage
- Expanding Head Start funding to serve more eligible low-income children
- Increasing access to and quality of child care
- Improving economic security for low-income families

There is a projected surplus for the 2011 session—NOW is the time to act on behalf of North Dakota's most precious resource.

Contact Paul Ronningen at pronningen@childrensdefense.org or 701-400-1827 to sign up or for additional information.

We hope to hear from you!

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Children's Defense Fund North Dakota
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Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-0655
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About the Children's Defense Fund Action Council

The CDF Action Council provides a strong, effective voice for all children of America who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of the poor children, minority children and those children with disabilities. The CDF Action Council educates the nation about the needs of children

and encourages preventive investments before they get sick, into trouble, drop out of school, or suffer family breakdown. The CDF Action Council began as a private, nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. We have never accepted government funds. For more information, visit www.cdfactioncouncil.org.

