



Legislative Agenda

*2018 Legislative
Session*

Connecticut Voices for Children believes that every child in our state deserves a meaningful opportunity to succeed. Equity in opportunity will not only allow more of our children to reach their full potential but, in so doing, it will generate substantial economic benefit for the state as a whole.

Creating pathways to opportunity will require strategic investments to support family success, assure excellence in education for all of our children, and revitalize our core cities. Such investments in turn rest upon a bipartisan commitment to a modernized tax system that meets the tri-part test of adequacy, fairness, and transparency.

We offer the following policy priorities to make Connecticut a more equitable and prosperous state for all children and families:



Protect the Care 4 Kids child care assistance program which helps parents work while nurturing children and preparing them for school.



Protect HUSKY health coverage and codify in state law the protections of the Affordable Care Act to ensure that children, parents, and pregnant women have access to quality health care.



Restore the state Earned Income Tax Credit to 30% of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit as part of a response to regressive tax changes at the federal level.



Support policies that allow children to thrive in their homes and communities, including the JJPOC Community Based Diversion Plan and the creation of a collaborative Child Welfare Oversight body to promote cross-agency support for children and families involved with the child welfare system.



Modernize the sales tax by expanding the base to apply broadly to goods and services, requiring an explicit rationale for any exclusion, exemption, or credit.



Reform the volatility cap to smooth out fluctuations in investment income tax revenue while preserving the ability to include income tax rate changes as a tax reform and modernization.



Repeal the bond lock provision of the FY 2018-19 state budget: a provision that ties the hands of future legislators to change spending cap, volatility cap and bond cap provisions and in so doing limits the ability of the state to meet the critical needs of our children, families and communities and threatens the long-term economic competitiveness of our state.