

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT CHILDREN

AFFILIATED WITH CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN, INC.



Campaign To Protect Children Community Forum **Facts-At-A-Glance**

WHAT: *Campaign To Protect Children* Community Forum is a series of local town hall meetings & televised broadcasts held across the state to promote citizen engagement and non-partisan discussions about the health, well-being and protection of our children. The *Campaign to Protect Children* is designed to address local issues and local concerns in the context of the inter-connectedness of local, state and federal public policy.

Campaign To Protect Children Community Forum promotes consensus that children and their parents require priority attention by those elected to office and provides information to increase candidate awareness of the scope of the problems facing children along with local intervention strategies and programs that have worked successfully in addressing existing problems.

Campaign To Protect Children Community Forum features video presentations, first-hand accounts, question and answer sessions between audience members and expert panelists, and provides materials that reflect the impact of state budget cuts to child services. All participants will be made aware of how they can advocate that **Florida's children must be a priority for all Florida policy makers.**

WHY: Florida is increasingly found on the watch list of credible and respected national watchdog groups. Over the past decade Florida has fallen drastically behind in providing a range of preventive, intervention and rehabilitative services to children. Unsatisfactory performance in these critical service areas not only results in huge negative costs to the children and families, it impacts the future health and economic vitality of the entire state.

It is a proven fact that at times of economic decline and uncertainty demands for child protection and family intervention services grow substantially. Jobs are disappearing and continued state budget cuts are crippling public safety and access to educational programs for children. Further cuts could jeopardize millions in federal funds and put Florida at risk for federal penalties

Florida's children need citizen leadership now more than ever. We must keep our promises:

The 5 Promises to Parents are:

1. **Maternal, Infant and Children's Health**
2. **Safety, Permanence, and Services to Children in Out-of-Home Settings**
3. **High Quality Pre-k, Child Care, and Early Learning**
4. **Safe and Enriching Before and After-School Experiences**
5. **Delinquency Prevention and Juvenile Justice Reform**

WHO: Citizen and community leaders will join grassroots advocates to discuss current developments affecting the youth and families in their local communities. **The Campaign To Protect Children** Community Forum is being presented by Children's Campaign, Inc in partnership with the Voices for America's Children and First Focus.

Everyone who cares about children is encouraged to participate and take action.

WHERE: Statewide

WHEN: May 2009 – November 2010

Children's Campaign, Inc. is a non-partisan charitable organization committed to making children a public policy priority through public education and advocacy.

For more information and media requests regarding **The Campaign To Protect Children** contact Pattie Crenshaw pcrenshaw@iamforkids.org or (850) 425-2600 www.iamforkids.org



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