2020 Bill Highlights

As of 3/13/2019

SB 348 – Florida KidCare Program by Senator Bean (R-Jacksonville)

Companion Bill: HB 6031 - Representative Pigman (R-Sebring)

Target Population: Children enrolled in the Florida KidCare program who have high level medical needs and their families/guardians.

Summary: Removes the lifetime maximum spending cap for the Florida KidCare health insurance program.

Impact: Florida KidCare is the umbrella term that encompasses all Florida government-sponsored children’s health insurance programs. Florida KidCare is designed to match families with one of the four Florida KidCare programs for free or low cost health insurance -- Medicaid, MediKids, Florida Healthy Kids, or the Children’s Medical Services Managed Care Plan. 2.3 million children are enrolled in Florida KidCare.
It is estimated that in 2018, over 339,000 children in Florida were uninsured, an increase of about 18% from 2016. Lack of health insurance means their families are less likely to take them to receive medical services when needed. A child’s healthy development and early learning is compromised when necessary medical services like routine check-ups or more costly procedures are not financially accessible.

In order for the Florida KidCare program to retain federal funding, the current lifetime spending cap must be removed. Federal funding is critical for Florida to cover children under Healthy Kids, as the federal investment far outweighs the state dollars. To put the state program back in compliance with federal regulations, SB 348 repeals the previous lifetime spending cap.

It is estimated for 2019-2020 in order for the state to continue coverage for children subject to forced unenrollment due to the lifetime cap, Florida will invest the necessary funds from state general revenue to draw down the generous federal funds. This addresses the problem that had resulted in 12 children having been removed from the Florida Healthy Kids program for surpassing the lifetime cap between 2015-2019.

The Children’s Campaign supports programs that help vulnerable children get the health services they need. We support this bill which maintains necessary dollars for Florida’s KisCare program and supports children who may face significant medical needs and their families.

**Effective Date:** Upon becoming a law.