



2019 HOT TOPICS

Children's Safety

	Nathan's Law	Quality Assurance Report
GOAL	Decrease child fatalities in home-based child care settings	Ensure and increase quality early childhood education programs
NEED	This bill fixes a loophole in the law. Currently, a home-based child care provider can watch an unlimited number family members' children under the age of 5 and still care for up to 4 other children for pay.	More than 30,000 children are in subsidized child care. The only mechanism parents have to judge the quality of providers is whether they are licensed or accredited. This is not sufficient to allow parents to choose care wisely. Recent reports of abuse and neglect at child care centers across the state indicate that quality is not consistent, and children are sometimes placed in dangerous settings.
TALKING POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children are sometimes not safe in child care settings because of a loophole that allows providers to care for an unlimited number of children Nathan's law enacts best practice of allowing an adult to care for only 6 children in a home setting This ratio is recommended by the Department of Defense, Office of Head Start, and the National Fire Protection Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missouri does not currently have a system to monitor the quality of child care programs. The Quality Assurance Report will provide parents with consumer information not currently available States with meaningful evaluation programs and strategies to improve quality are able to create a culture of continuous improvement in child care systems.
THE ASK	Support SB 336 and enact Nathan's Law.	Support funding for the Quality Assurance Report in the budget process

Children's Health

	Trauma-Informed Care	APRN Scope of Practice Expansion
GOAL	Increase awareness and usage of trauma-informed practices in child care facilities, schools, and communities	Ensure children have access to quality health care professionals
NEED	Being trauma-informed means that teachers, parents and community members are cognizant of trauma in a child's life, and are better prepared to respond to this trauma appropriately. The task force will make recommendations about best-practices of trauma-informed care and produce a report summarizing their findings.	97% of Missouri counties have a shortage of primary care providers. This shortage of workers hits hard in rural and urban communities alike. Rural patients may need to travel farther to seek healthcare, and in urban areas, patients may have to wait days to get in with their primary care provider.
TALKING POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in four children experience some sort of maltreatment, physical, sexual or emotional that has created trauma. Trauma-informed care better allows those who care for children to be mindful and compassionate to all patients they serve. Studying how Missouri's state departments, providers, and lawmakers can work together to provide the most appropriate care will benefit all Missourians. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In primary care shortage areas, research from the National Institutes of Health has shown that an expanded role of an Advanced Practiced Registered Nurse (APRN) reduced the need of hospitalization in medically complex children. Expanding the scope of practice for APRNs will provide more opportunities for children to have a consistent primary care health home.
THE ASK	Support HB 947 that reestablishes the trauma-informed care task force	Support SB 400 and HB 301 which would expand APRN scopes of practice