



## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2008-2009

The Mother & Child Health Coalition (MCHC) will pursue the following legislative objectives\*:

- **Monitor and educate regarding the implementation of appropriate state plans in Kansas and Missouri to improve the coverage of health insurance and access to care for underinsured children.**
  - Monitor and educate regarding the importance of maintaining and preferably increasing funding for Medicaid/Missouri HealthNet/Healthwave reimbursements to dental, mental health and pediatric providers at a sufficient level to ensure health professionals' participation in the said programs.
  
- **Monitor and support national, Missouri and Kansas legislative and policy initiatives that promote maternal and child health.**
  - Monitor and educate regarding the impact of the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights (TABOR) and any similar proposals in Kansas and Missouri.
  - Monitor and educate regarding policy to support preventive care, including immunization initiatives.
  - Monitor and educate regarding policy that supports prevention initiatives related to infant mortality, obesity, injury, alcohol and tobacco use.
  - Monitor and educate about and support adequate appropriation for the Healthy Start Initiative and other early intervention programs.
  - Monitor and educate regarding policy that promotes and supports breastfeeding.
  - Monitor and educate regarding birth defects prevention policy.
  - Monitor gun control initiatives and assist policy makers with morbidity and mortality gun related data.
  
- **Monitor and educate regarding welfare reform as it relates to public funding of maternal and child health programs to protect eligibility and maintain quality.**

*\* In choosing 2008-2009 legislative priorities for the Coalition, the following factors were taken into consideration:*

- A. Suggestions from the MCHC Board of Directors and Committee Chairs
- B. Recommendations from Legislative Committee members
- C. Priorities of other advocacy organizations
- D. Traditional areas of MCHC concern
- E. Legislative trends and realities in the U.S. Congress and the State Legislatures in Kansas and Missouri.