

2018 NC Child Legislative Agenda

Suicide Prevention

In North Carolina, between 2011 and 2015, suicide was the 2nd leading cause of death for youth age 15 to 17, and almost 1 in 10 NC high school students surveyed in the 2015 NC Youth Risk Behavior Survey reported attempting suicide.

- *NC Child supports House Bill 285 which would mandate all school personnel who come in contact with students in grades 6-12 complete an evidence-informed suicide awareness and prevention training every two years.*

Additional Funding for School Nurses

School nurses are on the front lines of protecting our children's physical and mental health and play a key role in ensuring students are well enough to thrive in the classroom. North Carolina currently has a shortage of approximately 654 school nurses, leaving many nurses to cover between 2-6 schools.

- *To address this shortage, NC Child supports increasing funding for school nurses by at least \$10 million.*

Closing the Health Care Coverage Gap

Children thrive when the other members of their family, particularly their parents, are healthy. Unfortunately, over 200,000 North Carolinians, thousands of whom are or soon will be parents, don't have health insurance because they earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but too little to access premium subsidies in the private marketplace.

- *NC Child supports HB662, Carolina Cares, which would create more options for low income families to access health insurance.*