



May 16, 2016

Dear Oklahoma Legislator,

The Tulsa County Child Protection Coalition works to improve the child protection system that cares for abused and neglected children. We know you have been working toward the same goal and have made some progress. Nevertheless, in Oklahoma and Tulsa we have seen an increase in child abuse and neglect. We are concerned that the current budget crisis will further diminish the resources necessary for law enforcement, the courts and the public and private service agencies that have been working so hard to protect our children.

We know you are now in a critical time in the legislative session when decisions will be made that affect our state's ability to do the work of protecting children. We wanted to assure you of our support for measures, including revenue measures, that can make resources available to keep the child protection system intact and effective.

Specifically, we know that programs such as Medicaid, child abuse prevention, mental health and health services, family intervention services, educational programs, courts and prosecutors may be unable, without additional revenues, to be successful.

Poverty and the various stressors that occur for low income working families are a leading risk indicator for child abuse and neglect. Therefore, we ask that you consider revenue options other than from such programs as the child care tax credit, the earned income tax credit and the low income sales tax rebate, the loss of which will be counterproductive to the goal of protecting children.

The dedicated people who work to carry out child protection responsibilities in your local community need your support now to prevent further damage to the child protection system. Please make your decisions and cast your votes with the children in mind.

Yours truly,

Advocacy Committee, Chair

Executive Director

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- Cherokee Nation
- Child Abuse Network*
- Community Service Council
- Counseling & Recovery Services of Oklahoma
- CREOKS Behavioral Health Services
- DVIS*
- Emergency Infant Services
- Family & Children's Services*
- Indian Health Care Resource Center*
- Mental Health Association Oklahoma
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- National Resource Center for Youth Services
- Oklahoma Department of Human Services*
- Preferred Family Health, dba Dayspring Community Services
- Sand Springs Children's Home
- The Parent Child Center of Tulsa*
- Tulsa Advocates for the Protection Children
- Tulsa CASA*
- Tulsa County District Attorney's Office*
- Tulsa County District Court*
- Tulsa County Sheriff's Office*
- Tulsa Indigent Parents' Attorneys
- Tulsa Lawyers for Children*
- Tulsa Police Department*
- Tulsa Public Schools
- Youth Services of Tulsa*
- Collaborative Partners
- Children's Consortium of Tulsa
- Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth
- ODMHSAS
- Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
- Oklahoma Therapeutic Foster Care Association

*Founding Members