

League of Women Voters Positions Related to Protecting Our Children

LWVUS

Position on Early Intervention for Children at Risk, Adopted by 1994 Convention:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that early intervention and prevention measures are effective in helping children reach their full potential. The League supports policies and programs at all levels of the community and government that promote the well-being, encourage the full development and ensure the safety of all children. These include:

- child abuse/neglect prevention;
- teen pregnancy prevention;
- quality health care, including nutrition and prenatal care;
- early childhood education;
- developmental services, emphasizing children ages 0-3;
- family support services;
- violence prevention.

Position on Child Care, Adopted by 1988 Convention:

The League of Women Voters supports programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it, or order to increase access to employment and to prevent and reduce poverty.

LWVAZ

Human Needs, Consensus 1971; Revised 1985; Reviewed 1995, Amended 2007

The League of Women of Arizona supports a state system that provides for a positive program to assist the economically disadvantaged in obtaining a greater measure of financial, physical and personal well-being, with emphasis on meeting basic human needs rather than on maintaining minimum expenditures.

In order to assist persons in need, to assure the basic essentials of health and adequate standards of living, reduce dependency, and break the welfare cycle, the state of Arizona should:

- Assure supportive programs and services integrated with those for the general public on an ability-to-pay basis, including legal services, comprehensive health care, child care, transportation, family planning, home management, family counseling, vocational training, and educational enrichment.
- Work with private and public agencies, and utilize community services to the fullest.
- Encourage recipients to work when possible, with child care, counseling, job training and financial incentives available and to participate in program development and implementation
- Disseminate information on welfare programs and interpret the needs of the community to the public.
- Provide adequate funds for capable, qualified staff, manageable case loads, information and referral services, and accessible office facilities.
- Administer funds and programs wisely, according to sound management and accounting principles, while preserving the rights and dignity of recipients.

Victimization of Children and Intrafamilial Abuse, Adopted 1985; Revised 1995

The League of Women Voters of Arizona believes that government, both state and local, including the state legislature and state and local agencies, should assure that necessary services are readily available to serve and protect the abused. These persons should be the focus of careful and timely long- range planning by these agencies and by the courts.

Adequate resource allocations shall be made within child protective and state agency budgets, within police and law enforcement budgets, and within the court system to assure the proper training and education of those who deal with these issues. The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports violence prevention programs in all communities and action to support:

- Public and private development and coordination of programs that emphasize the primary prevention of violence.
- The active role of government and social institutions in preventing violent behavior.
- The allocation of public monies in government programs to prevent violence.