

2022 Early Childhood Day the Capitol – Legislator Visits Asks

Please support expansion of home visitation programs, such as HB2111 which is a \$10 million dollar appropriation for Healthy Families Home visitation program.

- Arizona was among the top ten states with the highest proportion of children birth to 5 who experienced at least one Adverse Childhood Experience, such as family violence or parental drug use.
- Home visitation programs are proven to enhance family functioning, improve parenting practices, promote economic self-sufficiency and prevent abuse or neglect.
- These programs are free and completely voluntary.

Please support victims of child abuse or neglect by ensuring they remain safely with supportive family members instead of entering foster care.

- When a child must leave their birth family as a result of abuse or neglect, it is best they remain with other family members with whom they have connections.
- There are many costs associated with caring for additional children, including food, clothing, etc. The current stipend - \$75 per month per child – does not cover all of those costs, especially where multiple children are involved. These additional costs can prevent a family from being able to care for their relative’s children.
- HB2274 would raise the monthly amount to \$300 per child, promoting those family connections and bringing family caregivers closer to the amount paid to foster families, who are paid around \$600 to \$800 per month per child depending on the age of the child.
- Sometimes, a child’s placement with family is delayed due to DCS fingerprint requirements. HB2084 allows DCS to waive such requirements when safe to do so.

NOTE: If a policymaker would like more details on any specific bill, take note of this and let them know that someone from AZECA will reach out to them with additional information and to answer any questions they may have.