

# Children First

## 2019 Legislative Accomplishments

### **Protection of the Children First Trust Fund**

*CF oversaw the passage of this vital trust fund (CFTF) of almost \$40 million dollars which is dedicated solely for the needs of children. It has become the backbone of support that allows many state agencies to provide programs and services to over 150,000 of Alabama's children.*

### **Advocated for Sufficient Funding for Agencies that Serve Children**

*The twelve state agencies that benefit from the Children First Trust Fund are also funded by either the General Fund or the Education Trust Fund. As budgets in Alabama become tighter, it is important to continue to educate lawmakers on what proposed cuts could do to the well-being of Alabama's children. Children First played a vital role in insuring that the agencies that serve children received level funding from the previous year.*

### **Assisted in the Passage of Preventing Sales of Alternative Nicotine Products to Minors**

*CF assisted Rep. Stringer and Rep. Drummond with legislation relating to alternative nicotine product. The legislation will require the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to regulate retail sales of alternative nicotine devices and will prohibit the sale or transfer of alternative nicotine products or electronic delivery systems to minors. In addition, it prohibits retailers and manufacturers from opening new businesses near schools, child-care centers, churches, and other facilities. Also, it prevents retailers and manufacturers from advertising these products as tobacco cessation devices, as healthy alternatives to smoking, or being available in a variety of flavors.*

### **Worked with Legislators Regarding Juvenile Justice Issues**

*We continue to work with policymakers to find ways to give judges more discretion in cases where children are tried as adults and in expungement of juvenile records.*

### **Monitored 49 Bills that Would Have Impacted Children**

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*Children First works on behalf of all of Alabama's Children. CF gathers information from the state agencies and other non-profits that offer services to children and families in Alabama. Currently we have partnerships with all state agencies who receive money through the Children First Trust Fund. These include: The Department of Early Childhood Education, The Department of Human Resources, The Department of Mental Health, The Department of Youth Services, The Department of Public Health (ADPH), Child Death Review (a division of ADPH), Multiple Needs Child Office, The Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, The Department of Education, The Department of Forensic Sciences, The Administrative Office of Courts, Medicaid and The Alcohol Beverage Control Board. We also work with other non-profits to help shape positions on public policy that best benefit children. These include: VOICES for Alabama's Children, Alabama Partnership for Children, Alabama Arise, Alabama Academy of Pediatrics, HIPPPY Alabama, Alabama School Readiness Alliance, Alabama Children's Policy Council, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, National Lung Association and many other non-profits who are concerned about children's issues.*