

# ARIZONA INTERFAITH NETWORK



April 2, 2016

Governor Doug Ducey  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

We, the clergy of the Arizona Interfaith Network\* and its four member affiliates, are requesting that you act to protect the health of thousands of low-income children in our state. As you know, legislation that would allow Arizona to receive funding for KidsCare has been approved and passed out of the Arizona House and awaits consideration from the Senate. Left unchanged, the current situation will deny thousands of children regular access to medical care.

We are asking you to use your leadership to lift the temporary freeze on KidsCare to provide more than 30,000 children with lifesaving therapies, doctor visits, checkups and dentists.

These Arizona children live in working households that earn between 139 and 200 percent of the federal poverty level but are unable to obtain AHCCCS services and can't afford to buy health insurance. Typically, these working poor families cannot afford unmet deductibles and insurance premiums even if they are eligible for health care insurance either from the Affordable Care Act or private insurance.

Please consider:

- Arizona is the only state that does not have a children's healthcare program federally known as the "Children's Health Insurance Program" (CHIP).
- Research from Georgetown University cited in local newspapers has found that Arizona has the highest rate of uninsured children in the income bracket mentioned above.
- Children without regular access to primary care often go untreated or wind up in emergency rooms, creating an expensive and unnecessary burden on the health-care system.
- Children who do not have access to regular healthcare do poorly in school.

*\*The Arizona Interfaith Network includes Valley Interfaith Project, Pima County Interfaith Council, Pinal County Interfaith, Northern Arizona Interfaith Council, and Yuma County Interfaith.*

With your leadership, Arizona can reach a healthier future where employed parents do not have to worry about their sick child and kids are learning better in school because they are healthy --- regardless of their zip code.

We urge you to restore KidsCare in Arizona.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Hoshibata, Resident Bishop, The Desert Southwest Conference, The United Methodist Church

Rabbi John Linder, Temple Solel, Paradise Valley

Rev. Mary Bullis, Red Mountain United Methodist Church, Mesa

Rev. Andy Burnette, Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Chandler

Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz, Valley Beit Midrash

Rabbi Elana Kanter

Rabbi Mari Chernow

Rev. Susan E. Wilmot, St. James Episcopal Church, Tempe

Rev. N. Susan Brims, Dove of the Desert United Methodist Church, Glendale

Rabbi Jeremy Schneider, Temple Kol Ami, Scottsdale

Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy, Dayspring United Methodist Church, Tempe

Rev. Jayne Baker, Ascension Lutheran Church, Paradise Valley

Rev. Stoney Bowen-Weiszmann

Rev. Wesley D. Avram, Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale

Ahmad Shqeirah, Imam, Islamic Community Center of Tempe

The Reverend Martha L. Seaman, Church of the Epiphany, Tempe

Monica Dorsey, Santa Teresita Catholic Parish, El Mirage

Rev. David M Felten, The Fountains, a United Methodist Church, Fountain Hills

Rev. Dr. Robin B. Hollis, Deacon, St. James Episcopal Church, Tempe

Rev. Dave Summers, Paradise Valley United Methodist Church, Paradise Valley

Rev. Doug Bland, Community Christian Church, Tempe

Rev. Terry Sims, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Surprise

The Reverend James Bade. Deacon, Episcopal Diocese of Arizona

Rev. Deborah Lerner, Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

The Rev. Leah Sandwell-Weiss, St Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, Tucson

Pastor Jim Dew, Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, Tucson

Fr. Ron Oakham, O.Carm., St. Cyril of Alexandria Roman Catholic Parish, Tucson

The Rev. Canon William T. Holt III, St Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, Tucson

Sister Leonette Kochan, OSF, Coordinator: Office of Human Life & Dignity, Diocese of Tucson

The Rev. N. Jean Rogers, St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, Tucson

The Rev. Kate Bradsen, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Tucson

Rev. David Wilkinson, Retired, St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church, Tucson

The Rev. Sally Stevens-Taylor, St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, Tucson

Father Richard J. Aguilar, St. John's Episcopal Church-Bisbee and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church-Douglas

The Rev. Ralph Taylor, St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, Tucson

The Rev. Susan Anderson-Smith, Co-founder and Chaplain, Imago Dei Middle School, Tucson

Rev. Raven Gaston, First United Methodist Church, Tucson

The Rev. Steve Keplinger, Grace St Paul's Episcopal Church, Tucson

The Rev. Anne Strong, St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, Tucson

The Rev. Allen Breckenridge, St. Philips in the Hills Episcopal Church, Tucson

The Rev. Ernie Galaz, St Andrews Episcopal Church, Nogales

The Rev. Sarah Birdsall Isakson, St Raphael in the Valley, Benson, & Trinity Lutheran, Wilcox

Rev. Tom Jelinek, First UMC, Yuma

Fr. Manuel Fragoso-Carranza,, Immaculate Conception Church, Yuma

Fr. Emilio Chapa, St Francis of Assisi, Yuma

Rev. Tweedy Sombrero Navarrete, Trinity UMC, Yuma

Rev. Nathaniel Mma, Immaculate Conception Church

The Rev. Richard Devenport, Episcopal Church of the Apostles, Oro Valley  
Rabbi Samuel M. Cohon, Temple Emanu-El, Tucson  
Monsignor Thomas Cahalane, Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Parish, Tucson  
The Rev. Brigid Waszczak, Episcopal Church of St Matthew, Tucson  
The Rev. Canon John Kitagawa, Retired Episcopal Priest  
Rev. Randy J. Mayer, The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, Sahuarita  
The Rev. Anne Sawyer, Head of School and Co-founder, Imago Dei Middle School,  
Tucson  
The Rev. Linda Hutson, Episcopal Church of the Apostles, Oro Valley  
Rev. Bob Holliday, St James United Methodist Church, Tucson  
The Rev. Thomas Lindell, St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church  
Fr. Juan Carlos Aguirre, San Martin Catholic Parish, Sahuarita  
Rev. Dan Acker, Northwest Community Church, Tucson  
Rev. Lee Milligan, Casas Adobes UCC, Tucson  
Rev. Sharon Ragland, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Tucson  
Rev. Gonzalo Villegas, St. Augustine Cathedral, Tucson  
The Rev. Debra Asis, Episcopal Church of the Apostles, Oro Valley  
Rev. Sean Carroll, S.J., Executive Director, Kino Border Initiative, Nogales  
Rabbi Robert J Eisen, Congregation Anshei Israel, Tucson  
Rev. Delle McCormick, Rincon UCC, Tucson  
Fr. Robert Kose, Casa San Jose, Tucson  
The Rev. Kenn Katona, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Casa Grande  
The Rev. Carol Hosler, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Coolidge  
Rabbi Thomas Louchheim, Congregation Or Chadash, Tucson  
The Very Rev. David M. Gillespie, St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, Tucson  
The Rev. Ruth Hooper, St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, Tucson  
Rev. Ryan Gear, One Church, Chandler  
Deacon Robert Penzenstadler, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish, Casa Grande  
The Rev. Elwood McDowell, Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, Tucson

Rev. Jessica Goad, Flagstaff Federated Community Church, Flagstaff  
Steven C. Finger, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Flagstaff Meeting  
Deacon Ronald M. Martinez, St. John Vianney Catholic Church, Sedona  
Rev. J Scott Deasy, M.D., Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, Flagstaff  
Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson, Shepherd of the Hills United Church of Christ, Phoenix  
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