



Foreword

Child Advocacy in Action



Tina L. Cheng, MD, MPH
Consulting Editor

Child health professionals are natural advocates. We recognize the great potential of each child and the importance of investing early for healthy children and the adults they will become. We see social inequities affecting child health and work to make an impact child by child, family by family, and through advocacy. Children can't vote, so we must stand and vote for them.

There is much to learn from success stories in advocacy. This issue offers case studies of child advocacy in action. It also offers tools on effective advocacy. Isaacs and Schroeder¹ reviewed major public health successes over the past decades in an article entitled "Where the public good prevailed: lessons from success stories in health." In reviewing successes, including reductions in cavities with fluoride, reducing lead poisoning, reducing traffic fatalities, and reducing smoking, they identified four ingredients of success: (1) **Highly credible scientific evidence** that persuades policy-makers and withstands attack from those whose interests are threatened; (2) **Passionate advocates** who are committed and unrelenting; (3) **Partnership with the media** for public awareness and action; and (4) **Law and regulation** often at the federal level. On highly credible scientific evidence, an article in this issue discusses translating research to policy. On passionate advocates, we are the passionate advocates. Passion is illustrated in the case studies in this issue. On partnership with the media, the articles on child advocacy communication and child advocacy collaboration offer direction. Finally, law and regulation are highlighted in many of the case studies.

To create change, it has been said that we need the Wisdom, the Will, and the Wallet for child advocacy.² We hope that this issue inspires your wisdom and will and strengthens your voice for children, adolescents, and families.

Tina L. Cheng, MD, MPH
Department of Pediatrics
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
3333 Burnet Avenue, MLC 3016
Cincinnati, OH 45229, USA

E-mail address:

Tina.Cheng@cchmc.org

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