

A smiling woman with long dark hair is holding a baby. The baby is wearing a white knitted sweater with dark buttons. The background is a blurred green field.

# Families First

2017-19 House Democratic  
Operating Budget Summary

*March 27, 2017  
Prepared by House Democratic Caucus Staff*

*(Dollars are four-year totals and Near-General Fund)*



**HOUSE DEMOCRATS**

# Families First

## K-12 Education

# \$7.1 Billion

- ✓ Fully funding public schools
- ✓ Closing the opportunity gap
- ✓ Placing high quality teachers in every classroom
- ✓ Preparing students for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy

*Keeping our promise to one million public school kids.*



HOUSE DEMOCRATS



# Families First

## Higher Education

### \$400 Million

- ✓ Freezing tuition for ALL students
- ✓ Increasing investments in financial aid
- ✓ Investing in STEM education

*Making the college dream more affordable.*





# Families First

## Early Learning & Child Care

**\$106 Million**

- ✓ Expanding early childhood education to 3,000 preschoolers
- ✓ Providing more child care resources for working parents

*Placing our kids on the right pathways to success.*

# Families First

## Children & Family Services

**\$67 Million**

- ✓ Creating a new department focused on improving outcomes for kids
- ✓ Lowering caseloads for social workers
- ✓ Improving the lives of foster families

***Fulfilling our moral obligation  
to care for children in need.***



# Families First

## Mental Health Care

**\$350 Million**

- ✓ Integrating behavioral and physical health care systems
- ✓ Investing in our state hospitals
- ✓ Expanding children's mental health care

*Providing care and treatment  
for those in need.*



# Families First

## Health Care

**\$424 Million**

- ✓ Investing in public health
- ✓ Fighting back against the opioid crisis
- ✓ Preserving critical Medicaid funding and services

***Ensuring a healthier  
Washington for all.***



# Funding the state's constitutional and moral obligations

- ✓ Fully funding basic education
- ✓ Increasing college financial aid and freezing tuition
- ✓ Investing in our behavioral health system to help people in crisis get the help they need
- ✓ Expanding early learning opportunities for our youngest learners
- ✓ Increasing funding for homelessness & programs that help struggling families stay on their feet