Welcome to the 2020 Children’s HealthWatch Virtual Fall Celebration, “Wealth Equity is Health Equity: Improving Child and Family Health through Income Supports”

Monday, November 16, 2020
7:00 PM-8:00 PM ET
Welcome to the 2020 Children’s HealthWatch Fall Celebration, "Wealth Equity is Health Equity: Improving Child & Family Health through Income Supports"

We are delighted to have you as our guests to celebrate 22 years of cutting edge research on the impact of public policy on children and families' health and well-being, and also the partnerships we have cultivated all these years. We have reached this milestone with your collaboration and support. We truly are where we are because of you.

This year’s theme, "Wealth Equity is Health Equity," looks at asset building and income support policies, including the Earned Income Tax Credit, that help financially stabilize families, offset racial income disparities, and improve child and family well-being. These supports are even more critical today as families across the country, particularly communities of color, feel the repercussions of an economic crisis precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

One person who understands the importance of wealth and income equity is our 2020 Children’s HealthWatch Champion, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. Indeed, she has been a stalwart supporter of legislation and policies that lift children and families economically and that dismantle racism and discrimination embedded in the many institutions that are supposed to help, not hurt, constituents. Congresswoman Pressley demonstrates an unwavering commitment to children and families through the advancement of evidence-based policies that respond to the harsh realities of hunger, homelessness, and poverty among families in Massachusetts and across the nation.

Now more than ever, the work that Children’s HealthWatch does matters. Not only have we have seen an unprecedented assault on the programs and policies that stabilize communities and support their health, but the pandemic has exacerbated longstanding inequities and has undercut families' economic well-being. We know that children thrive when we respond to their realities. Together through policy change we can ensure that this and future generations of children's realities are safe, healthy and happy. Thank you again for joining us tonight.

The Children’s HealthWatch Team
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PROGRAM

Welcome Remarks
Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, Executive Director, Children’s HealthWatch

Brief history of Children’s HealthWatch
Megan Sandel, Co-Lead Principal Investigator, Children’s HealthWatch
Kate Walsh, President & CEO, Boston Medical Center

Policy in Action
Eduardo Ochoa, Jr., Principal Investigator, Children’s HealthWatch-Little Rock
Bruno Showers, Senior Policy Analyst, Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families

Impact
Diana Cutts, Co-Lead Principal Investigator, Children’s HealthWatch
Quanda Burrell Nanton, Witnesses to Hunger-Boston

Introduction and Presentation of Children’s HealthWatch Champion Award
Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba

Keynote Address by Children’s HealthWatch Champion
US Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, (MA-07)

How You Can Help
Charles Homer, Children’s HealthWatch Advisory Board Chair
Cerlyn Cantave, Engagement, Equity & Inclusion Associate, Children’s HealthWatch
Kit Judge, Associate Director, Policy Reform & Advocacy, The Annie E Casey Foundation
Susanne Beaton, Former Director of Special Initiatives at the Paul & Phyllis Fireman Charitable Foundation
Karen Sweet, Children’s HealthWatch Advancement Chair

Closing Remarks
Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba
Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley is the recipient of the 2020 Children’s HealthWatch Champion Award, an annual award given to a champion who advocates for evidence-based policies that help children thrive. Born in Cincinnati and raised in Chicago, she is the only child of Sandra Pressley, a tenants’ rights organizer who instilled in her the value of civic engagement.

Congresswoman Pressley moved to Boston in 1992 to attend Boston University. Working as an aide to Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II and later Senator John Kerry, her professional life mirrored her commitment to service and lifting the voices of those in her community. In 2009, Congresswoman Pressley launched a historic at-large campaign for Boston City Council and won, becoming the first woman of color elected to the Council in its 100-year history. On the Council, she worked in partnership with residents, advocates, and other elected officials to combat the inequities and disparities facing the community. This is where Children’s HealthWatch got to know her – working with her to highlight the child health impact of food insecurity and housing instability.

Congresswoman Pressley made history again in November 2018 when she was elected to represent Massachusetts’ 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, making her the first woman of color to be elected to Congress from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She was recently re-elected. In the past two years, she has introduced legislation—very much aligned with this year’s theme—to help families reach financial stability and decrease the racial wealth gap, such as the STRONG Support for Children Act, Anti-Racism in Public Health Act, American Opportunity Accounts Act, Comprehensive CREDIT Act and Building Our Opportunities to Survive and Thrive, or BOOST, among others.

Congresswoman Pressley believes that policy backed by evidence helps children and families do more than just survive but to thrive. We are immensely grateful for her tireless advocacy and commitment not only to her constituents in the Massachusetts 7th district, but everyone who seeks a better and brighter future for themselves and their loved ones.
Thank you to all those who made tonight possible!
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