Six facts about child well-being in Washington

As of 2018, 25% of Washington children lived in families lacking secure parental employment.

In 2018, 47,000 Washington children ages 18 and below lacked health insurance.

In 2018, 18% of Washington children lived in households facing food insecurity.

In 2017, 56% of Washington children ages 3 to 4 were not enrolled in prekindergarten programs.

65% of Washington children scored below proficient in fourth grade reading achievement in 2019. 80% of indigenous fourth graders scored below proficient.

Washington ranks 21st in the nation in the children’s economic well-being domain.

Sources: Children’s Alliance, Washington State Budget and Policy Center, KIDS COUNT Data Center
In the US today, 52.1% of children (38.5 million children) are poor or low-income. When more than half of our children do not know if they will have a place to sleep, nutritious meals, or safe communities, we are failing our families and compromising the future of this country.

More than 1.5 million public school students experienced homelessness during the 2017-2018 school year. LGBTQ+ youth are at a much higher risk of homelessness than their peers.

In 2016, there was a resurgence in school re-segregation. Predominantly white school districts received $2,200 more per student in funding. Funding for tribals schools has fallen from $400 million to $133 million over the past 10 years.

A child or teen is killed with a gun every 2 hours and 34 minutes. African American and Native children and teens are more likely to be killed by law enforcement than any other ethnic groups.

Due to consistent underfunding, Early Head Start served only 5% of eligible infants and toddlers in 2016.

SNAP benefits 17.5 million children, but current attacks on SNAP will mean that 1 million children will no longer receive school meals.

In 2019, student debt totaled more than $1.5 trillion and affected about 44 million Americans.

It does not need to be this way. Investing in our children’s education could grow the economy by $32 trillion over the long-term. A Wall Street tax of 0.1% in trading could raise $70 billion to provide free public college for all. A cut of just 1% to the military budget would cover nearly 8 million additional Head Start spots.