



The 89th Texas Legislative Agenda for Children

November 21, 2024 | 10:00AM CT

Speaker Bios



Dr. Bob Sanborn, President and CEO, CHILDREN AT RISK

Dr. Sanborn is a noted leader, advocate, and activist for education and children and the President and CEO of CHILDREN AT RISK. Dr. Sanborn earned his undergraduate degree at Florida State University and his doctorate at Columbia University in New York City. Before entering the non-profit sector, he had a distinguished career in higher education at institutions such as Rice University and Hampshire College. He has worked and served as a senior leader with many organizations, always bringing with him a focus on innovation, collaborations with like-minded groups, resource developing partnerships, and a belief that all children deserve extraordinary opportunities to succeed.

Under his leadership, CHILDREN AT RISK has expanded its influence considerably. Notable achievements include opening up centers in Dallas and Fort Worth; launching the Public Policy & Law Center, the CHILDREN AT RISK Institute, the Center for Parenting and Family Well-Being and the Center to End Trafficking and Exploitation of Children; directing significantly increased media attention to the issues championed by the organization; and increasing the organizational capacity to drive macro-level change to improve the lives of Texas' most defenseless children. Sanborn is the Executive Editor of two peer reviewed, open access academic journals, the Journal of Applied Research on Children and the Journal of Family Strengths. He is also the host of the popular radio program and podcast Growing Up in America on the Pacifica Radio Network. He continues to work to end poverty at a systematic level through advocacy with community organizations and an increased awareness among public officials and the media.



Mandi Sheridan-Kimball, VP & Director of Government Affairs, CHILDREN AT RISK

Mandi has been advocating for Texas' children since 2004. In January 2006, she became CHILDREN AT RISK's Public Policy Analyst and quickly made her way to Director. She received her Master's in Social Work from the University of Houston and received her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from St. Edwards in Austin, Texas. Social justice is a priority on Mandi's advocacy agenda. Her experience and knowledge of the Texas Legislature has assisted her efforts in achieving quality care and services to Texas' most vulnerable youth in the areas of early education, human trafficking, juvenile justice/mental health, public education, and food insecurity. Mandi oversees the Public Policy and Law Center's advocacy efforts, all policy briefs and bills drafted and filed by the Center, and provides expert testimony to support positive policy changes. Mandi is highly active within communities in Texas and serves in leadership capacities on multiple local and state coalitions. In 2011, Mandi received the University Of Houston Graduate College Of Social Work Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award. Furthermore, Mandi works to build coalitions with community stakeholders, business stakeholders, non-profits, and service providers, to ensure a united front of child advocates.



Kim Kofron, Senior Director of Education, CHILDREN AT RISK

Kim Kofron is the Senior Director of Early Childhood Education for C@R. Previously, she served as the Executive Director for the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children from 2014-2021. She hails from the great state of Illinois receiving her Bachelor of Science in Child Development from the University of Illinois but found her way to Texas where she received her Master of Education in Early Childhood Special Education from the University of Texas. Kim has worked in many capacities in early childhood, working in both for-profit and non-profit child care settings as a 3-year-old teacher to Director to Manager of Education for a multi-site statewide child care company in Texas. Kofron has served on Governor Perry's Commission on Licensing Standards and currently serves on Governor Abbott's Texas Early Learning Council.



Clayton Travis, Director of Advocacy and Health Policy Texas Pediatric Society, the Texas Chapter of the AAP

Clayton leads TPS' legislative and regulatory advocacy activities. He communicates regularly with state lawmakers, state agency leadership and advocacy coalitions. He mobilizes physician advocates to engage on issues related to child health and the practice of pediatric medicine.



Jamie Olson, MGPS, Director of Policy & Advocacy, Feeding Texas

Jamie joined Feeding Texas in 2017. As our VP of Policy and Advocacy, she focuses on advancing federal and state policy solutions that impact food, nutrition, and economic development with the goal of ensuring every Texan has the means to thrive. Her work includes reducing barriers to SNAP access, securing investments in the emergency food system, and influencing key provisions in the Farm Bill to protect and strengthen the food safety net.

Jamie is proud to lead the Texas Food Policy Roundtable, a diverse coalition of over 70 organizations dedicated to ending hunger. Under Jamie's leadership, the Roundtable and Feeding Texas network successfully passed multiple hunger-fighting laws in the 2023 Texas legislative session, including legislation to update the SNAP Vehicle Asset Test limit and streamline SNAP pre-enrollment for individuals exiting the criminal justice system.

Jamie holds a Master of Global Policy Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and has a diverse background in both the non-profit and public sectors.



Jonathan Feinstein, State Director for Texas, EdTrust

Jonathan brings more than 15 years of experience in education as a teacher, organizer, and nonprofit leader. He serves as the State Director for Texas, where he works with and supports partners statewide to advance educational equity for students of color and from low-income backgrounds. Prior to joining EdTrust, Jonathan worked at The Commit Partnership, where he led community engagement and local advocacy efforts to bring together a wide range of systems leaders and directly impacted stakeholders to improve cradle-to-career outcomes for students in Dallas County.

Before that, Jonathan worked as a middle school and special needs teacher, and continues to engage directly with educators, students, and other leaders to deepen his learning and commitment to racial equity. A native of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Jonathan credits his public schooling experience for instilling a deeply held appreciation for diverse educators and peers and for exposing him to the wide, persistent opportunity gaps affecting students of color and students from low-income families. He holds a bachelor's degree in American Studies from Wesleyan University with a concentration in Ethnic Studies.



Linda Corchado, Senior Director of Immigration. CHILDREN AT RISK

Linda Corchado is Director of CHILDREN AT RISK's Children's Immigration Network. Linda is a graduate of Swarthmore College where she studied Political Science and minored in Latin American Literature. Linda lived in New York City where she attended law school at Cardozo and then moved back to El Paso where she spent many years working in immigration advocacy around such issues as separation of families, unaccompanied minors and working to reform the immigration court system. Linda's passion for immigration issues comes from personal experience in that both of her parents were born in Mexico and Spanish was her first language.



Donald Bowers, Vice-President, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Donald Bowers (Chair), a native Houstonian, received his Bachelors' degree from Rice University and joined the Federal Reserve Bank's Management Development Program in 1991. After completing a series of rotational assignments, he was promoted to Manager of the Bank's Human Resources Department in 1995. In 2015, he was promoted to Vice President. In addition to serving as secretary to the Houston Branch Board of Directors his responsibilities currently include the Bank's Communications and Outreach, Law Enforcement, and Business Continuity functions. Donald and his wife, Shawn, are the proud parents of two outstanding young men. Their older son is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, and is a Lieutenant in the United States Navy. Their younger son is a recent graduate of Texas State University and is a special education instructor in Pearland ISD. Donald earned an M.B.A. from Sam Houston State University with a concentration in Banking and Finance. He is also a senior fellow member of the 29th Class of American Leadership Forum Houston Gulf Coast Chapter.



Chris Wallace, President and CEO, North Texas Commission

Chris Wallace serves as President/CEO of the North Texas Commission, a unique public-private partnership that drives large impactful projects and legislative advocacy benefiting a robust 13-county region. Prior to this position, Chris was President/COO of the Texas Association of Business, and he has extensive experience in governmental relations.

Chris is also a member of the faculty at the Institute for Organization Management, a premier training and development program for non-profit professionals in the U.S. He received his BS from Texas Tech University.



Ed Wolff, President, Beth Wolff Realtors

Ed Wolff is the President, Beth Wolff Realtors. As a fourth-generation Houstonian Ed Wolff grew up watching his mother, Beth Wolff, build a respected residential real estate business. So it was natural that after college at Louisiana State University (LSU), Ed joined the family firm. Today, BETH WOLFF Realtors is respected as one of Texas' most successful mother-son endeavors. Not only is Ed President of the company, he is also active in the real estate community. Ed has served on the Board of Directors of the Houston Association of Realtors (HAR) and the Texas Association of Realtors (TAR). As a director and spokesperson for FIABCI-USA, the American Chapter of the International Real Estate Federation, he promoted his hometown and the USA to countries throughout the world bringing the World Congress of FIABCI to Houston in 2004. He has earned the professional designation of Certified International Property Specialist (CIPS) and is often called upon to share his expertise through talks at real estate seminars and meetings throughout the world. Ed currently serves as Chair of the Texas Association of Realtors Political Action Committee (TREPAC). Whether it's new construction, townhouses or luxury homes, Ed enjoys assisting buyers and sellers throughout Houston. "My mission is to help clients achieve their goals," he says. Active in the LSU Alumni Association, Ed is also involved in Governmental Affairs for HAR. He was chosen to receive HAR's 2008 John E. Wolf Citizenship Cup Award. Ed was recently recognized by the Houston Business Journal with its "40 Under 40" award given to Houston's top 40 young leaders under the age of 40 who excel in their industries, are respected business leaders and show dynamic leadership in their community. He was also named the 2010 Realtor® of the Year, by the Houston Association of Realtors.



Doe Florsheim, Community Advocate

Doe Florsheim has worked with Houston non-profit organizations for over 20 years. She has worked as a Board Member, Participant Mentor, and Volunteer for the Foundation for Teen Health since 2013. Doe has also served on the executive board for the Baylor College of Medicine Partnership for six years, and is currently the President of the Baylor College of Medicine Partnership, serving her second term. Along

with these positions, she volunteers for Planned Parenthood of Gulf Coast. Doe earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from The University of Texas.



Jason Sabo, Founder, Frontera Strategy

Jason Sabo is the founder of Frontera Strategy. Jason has led and assisted efforts to pass legislation and secure appropriations at state capitols across the country for more than two decades. Jason knows the issues and politics important to nonprofits and philanthropy, and he knows how to win. He holds a master's degree in History from Indiana University.