



# 89<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DEBRIEF

## THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN

July 10 2025 | 10:00AM CT

### Speakers



**DR. BOB SANBORN, PRESIDENT & CEO,  
CHILDREN AT RISK (C@R)**

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 KIMBALL, CHIEF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
OFFICER, C@R**

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.



**JONATHAN FEINSTEIN, STATE DIRECTOR, EDTRUST  
TEXAS**

<https://edtrust.org/texas>

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.



**CLAYTON TRAVIS, DIRECTOR, ADVOCACY & HEALTH  
POLICY, TEXAS PEDIATRIC SOCIETY**

Texas Pediatric Society for the Texas Chapter of the AAP.

<https://tps.imiscloud.com/>



**COURTNEY CHAVEZ, DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY AND  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LONE STAR JUSTICE  
ALLIANCE**

Courtney Chavez, J.D. is the Director of Advocacy and Government Relations for Lone Star Justice Alliance (LSJA). Previously, she served as the Senior Vice President of Equity and Community Partnerships at Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) where she led the development of workforce and business assistance programs, created strategic engagement plans to increase community dialogue among harder-to-reach populations across Austin, and supported community

advocacy for public projects. In addition, Courtney was a key member in partnership between ATP, CapMetro, and Workforce Solutions Capital Area that paved the way for the Mobility + Infrastructure Sector Partnership and Austin's first Infrastructure Academy. Before ATP, Courtney served as Deputy Director of the Civil Rights Division at the Texas Department of Transportation where she first partnered with LSJA to create the ConnectU2Jobs program designed to provide a career pathway in transportation for justice-involved youth. Prior to her public service, Courtney practiced law for over seven years in Los Angeles before returning home to Texas.

Courtney holds a B.A. degree in Public Policy Analysis from Pomona College, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Texas School of Law. She has spoken at events both locally and nationally about the importance of partnerships to solve community challenges and the need to better leverage public investments for community benefit.



**KIM KOFRON, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION,  
C@R**

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.



**CAROLINE ROBERTS, GENERAL COUNSEL & SENIOR  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY, C@R**

Caroline Roberts serves as General Counsel and Senior Director of Public Policy at Children at Risk, advocating for policies that positively impact the lives of children. Caroline graduated with a B.A. in psychology from Duke University. Caroline then attended New York University School of Law, where she served as symposium editor for the Environmental Law Journal. Caroline leads Children at Risk's human trafficking and opportunity youth work in an effort to ensure that all Texas children are safe, secure, and enjoy equal opportunities.



**STEPHANIE O'BANION, DIRECTOR OF IMPACT &  
ENGAGEMENT, UNITED WAY OF TEXAS**

Stephanie focuses on network engagement and impact as it relates to public policy priorities and strategic initiatives, including ALICE, Start Smart Texas, Lantern, 211 Texas and Texas Nonprofit Strong. She serves as a liaison between United Ways of Texas and local communities, state and national partners.





**ANDREA COKER, NORTH TEXAS COMMISSION,  
CHIEF ADVOCACY OFFICER**

Andrea Coker serves as the Vice President of Federal Advocacy and Strategic Communication for the North Texas Commission, and oversees the NTC's federal policy development, communications, marketing and management of relationships with North Texas Federal Delegation offices. From the UK Parliament to Congress, Andrea Coker has a rich background in a variety of political roles, most recently leading communications at Visit Dallas to serving as a Communications Director for a U.S. Congress member. She has also worked to pass billions in school and city bonds in DFW, served a lead on many

municipal elections, and managed the PR for the Dallas Police Association. A graduate of Dallas Baptist University, Andrea and her husband, Michael, live in Dallas with their three children, Margaret, Odette, and George and French bulldog puppy, Fred.



**ED WOLFF, PRESIDENT, BETH WOLFF REALTORS;  
C@R BOARD MEMBER**

Fourth-generation Houstonian Ed Wolff grew up watching his mother, Beth Wolff, build a world-class residential real estate business. After college at Louisiana State University (LSU), Ed joined the family firm and learned the ropes, working his way up to president of the company. Today, Ed and Beth preside over Beth Wolff Realtors®, one of Texas' most successful residential brokerages and respected mother-son enterprises. Whether it's new construction, townhouses, or luxury homes, Ed enjoys assisting buyers and sellers throughout Houston - and beyond. He holds the Certified Relocation Professional (CRP) and Certified

International Property Specialist (CIPS) designations and is often called upon to share his expertise through talks at real estate seminars and meetings in many different countries.

As a director and spokesperson for FIABCI-USA, the American Chapter of the International Real Estate Federation, he promoted his hometown and the USA in cities around the globe and was instrumental in bringing the World Congress of FIABCI to Houston in 2004. An active promoter and supporter of the professional real estate community, Ed has served on the Houston Association of Realtors® (HAR) and Texas Association of Realtors® (TAR) boards of directors, and is a past chair of TREPAC (Texas Association of Realtors® in Political Action Committee), and contributes his expertise to HAR Governmental Affairs. Ed has received several awards and recognitions including the HAR 2008 John E. Wolf Citizenship Cup Award and HAR 2010 REALTOR of the Year.

Houston Business Journal recognized him with its "40 Under 40" award, presented to Houston's top 40 business people under the age of 40 who excel in their industries and show dynamic leadership in their community. Beth and Ed share fascinating family history. Their family was established in Texas during Mexican colonial times when an ancestor received a land grant from the Mexican government and has been an influential presence in the business and civic affairs of Houston since the 1880s.