



Children's Advocates for Change

*Championing the Well-Being of Illinois' Children*

[www.childrensadvocates.org](http://www.childrensadvocates.org)

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## February 2022 Newsletter

*Message from the President Dr.  
Tasha Green Cruzat*



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*"In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute." – Thurgood Marshall*

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As we close on this last day of Black History Month, I hope that many of you have taken time to learn, reflect and share achievements, contributions, and victories of so many Black Americans who have worked tirelessly to build a better nation. Our Black heroes, many risking their lives with hope and passion in their hearts, stood as trailblazers while facing intense racial discrimination and violence. I stand here, today, on the prominent shoulders of so many Black Americans who have paved the way for me and so many others.

Black History Month has been intense, and at times, a bittersweet moment for me. With each passing year, my heart shatters as I am reminded of dark moments in our history of racial violence such as the senseless, heinous murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till or the ill-treatment and murder of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., who peacefully protested for racial justice. However, a sense of hope pours over me as I reflect on the great work of inspiring legends and pioneers like Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Bessie Coleman, Thurgood Marshall, Ida B. Wells, Maya Angelou, Katherine Johnson – the list goes on.

My colleagues and fellow partners of Children's Advocates for Change, I hope that you will join me and continue to build on the historic contributions and victories that advance us as a nation and move to a world where the color of your skin no longer matters.

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House and Senate Committees in the Illinois General Assembly are taking up parts of the Governor's proposed state budget as they head for a scheduled mid-April adjournment. Children's Advocates for Change's Vice-President for Policy, Mitch Lifson, has taken a look at Governor J.B. Pritzker's proposed state budget for Fiscal Year 2023 and posted a [review](#) on our website.

We are also keeping an eye on substantive bills moving through the General Assembly and have compiled a "Bill Watch" list where you can keep track of legislation impacting children and their families. You can find the list [here](#).



***“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” – Frederick Douglass***

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As we continue the struggle for a better nation, we salute the Black leaders of Children's Advocates for Change who stand committed to ensuring that all Illinois children, no matter the race, socioeconomic background, or zip code of the child, are provided the resources and opportunities they need to grow up well-educated, healthy, and safe.



*Dr. Tasha Green Cruzat  
President and Board Member*



*Dr. Gwendolyn Oglesby-Odom,  
Board Chair-elect*



*Dr. Patricia Jones Blessman  
Board Vice-Chair*



*Dr. Ramona Burress  
Board Secretary*



*Jennifer Jones  
Board Treasurer*



*Mark Payne  
Board Member*

Your financial support helps propel our advocacy work. Make a donation to Children's Advocates for Change today at our [website](#).

Join our team as a Weigle Fellow! Children's Advocates for Change is currently taking applications for a 20-week spring fellowship. You can learn more about the Helen R. Weigle Fellowship [here](#).



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