

# SSW 122 Women, equity, and care work Policy Proposal

Team Name: Heartfelt Heroes

Policy Proposal Title: Completely free health care for those 19 and under.

Photo to accompany policy proposal:



Introductory paragraph: This policy provides free healthcare and benefits to all children under 19. This may include physiological, mental, dental, optometric, and other sorts of care. This can relief stress from families who are working hard at obtaining a healthy lifestyle. This policy may also contribute to long-term benefits to society, as it would create healthy children that become healthier adults. Free healthcare reinforces womans capability to make health a priority and eliminates the need to negotiate access to household finances (ie work more). Free healthcare also makes access equitable to all, especially if the woman only works limited hours and does not qualify for benefits.

### Real impact quotes from Team members:

"Free healthcare would reduce a womans care taking burden."

"Seeing the large sum of parent's money going into children's healthcare and the stress it can cause."

"Children would have a better chance at having a healthy/good life that they deserve."

"Ensuring child have access to free healthcare goes beyond providing basic medical health care "

"Secure health for every child means brighter future and happier homes. Let's pledge to make healthcare universally for kids, because every child deserves a healthy beginning."

### Name of proposed policy: Universal Healthcare and Benefits for Children

### How it would work:

When a child is born, they register for a care card. This care card number would entitle them to free benefits up to 19 years old. With the care card registration, they would be issued a health benefits card that would entitle them to all dental (ortho included), medications, birth control, eye exams, eyeglasses, dietician, physio, massage, etc. The child would show their health benefits card any time they receive a benefit.

### Benefits:

- Available to all children under 19
- Reliefs families from financial stress or responsibility in providing healthcare to their children.
- Health care and benefits include a wide range of services such as optometry, dental care, physio, massage therapy, and much more.
- Creates healthier children in society.
- Creates equality in children's health and well-being.

- Ensuring equitable access to healthcare for all youth, regardless of their socioeconomic status.
- This policy could potentially eliminate the need for "Jordans Principle".

### Risks:

- Long wait times (more people accessing services)
- The policy ends once children age out at 19 years old.
- Families might love this policy

### Potential Impact:

This can impact different family aspects, including the women caretaker, and the children involved. If the Caretakers didn't have to worry about paying for their children's health care, it could relieve some stress and improve the home environment whether it's more time together instead of working or money spent on other things. Helping to cover more than is covered in the current MSP programs.

### References:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp>

[The impact of free healthcare on women's capability: A qualitative study in rural Burkina Faso – ScienceDirect](#)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/new-immigrants/new-life-canada/health-care/universal-system.html>