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## **Lt. Governor Denish to sign Children and Youth bills**

- **Who: Lt. Governor Denish, Alice Kings, Youth Alliance members, Children's Cabinet members and advocates.**
- **What: Children and Youth bill signings**
- **When: 11:30 a.m.**
- **Where: Cabinet Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, State Capitol.**

Lt. Governor Diane D. Denish will sign several bills dealing with children and youth issues on **Friday at 11:30 in the Cabinet Room of the Capitol.**

Former First Lady Alice King, who has long been a champion of children's issues, has also been invited to attend.

One of the bills to be signed is the Creation of the Next Generation Fund (SB614 - Nava/King), which will be administered by the Children's Trust Fund board and will seek to support and sustain positive youth development and after-school activities.

The Lt. Governor will also sign the Children's Cabinet Act (SB435 - Ortiz y Pino) and the Youth Alliance Act (SB617 - Nava).

The Children's Cabinet was originally created by Executive Order in 2003. Since its inception it has been a forum for interdepartmental cooperation and coordination and a policy incubator for such initiatives as voluntary Pre-Kindergarten and the Behavioral Health Collaborative.

The Youth Alliance, which is a statewide body of youth convened to advise the Governor and the Legislature, was also formed in 2003. It has been credited with raising awareness of the importance of school-based health centers, a program Governor Richardson expanded in the recent legislative session.