

## CHILD CARE

### Effort is multipronged

I was pleased to see the July 26 editorial "Keeping children safe has to be the priority" reminding Milwaukee of the importance of keeping children safe and the recognition of recent accomplishments of the state Department of Children and Families ([Reggie Bicha's "Another View"](#)).

The state budget reflects an increased investment in our most vulnerable population, and the Journal Sentinel's continued attention to the topic will help to bring needed change. The Planning Council for Health and Human Services, author of the study released in May and referred to in the article, is pleased to see fiscal and programmatic changes that address the identified needs.

The press and the bureaucracy play key roles. However, as the source of this study and the community conversation that followed, we also would like to emphasize that assuring child safety will take more than a year and more than the efforts of a state department.

Several other needed strategies have been identified including: shared medical records; concentrated and focused effort on those most susceptible; linking to community resources including family support programs, medical clinics, community organizations, neighborhood centers and the faith-based community; and the candid recognition of the influence of race and poverty in these cases. These will need to be addressed by multiple sources over the long haul to make Milwaukee a leader in keeping children safe.

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