



Immediate Release

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**Speaking for Kids, the Podcast from Michigan's Children, is Live!  
Each Month, Advocacy Group Offers Crucial Conversations on Public Policy in the Best  
Interest of Kids, Youth and Families**

(April 14, 2021) – [Michigan's Children](http://michiganschildren.org) has launched a new monthly podcast named *Speaking for Kids* to explore crucial conversations with people making public policy decisions in Lansing and Washington, D.C. - along with the voices of youth and families impacted by them.

“Our goal will be to help strengthen the voices of people speaking up for the changes we need to improve the lives of Michigan’s kids and families, and encourage would-be champions to get involved in the issues we’re fighting for,” said Matt Gillard, President & CEO of Michigan’s Children, and the Podcast’s host.

The first episode - *Rookie Lawmakers across the Aisle* - airs today and pairs Gillard with two of Michigan’s 28 freshmen lawmakers, state Rep. John Roth, R-Traverse City and state Rep. Abraham Aiyash, D-Hamtramck. During the 35-minute conversation, the freshmen discuss issues of shared concerns: poverty, food deserts, child abuse, kinship care, family struggles over child care, and help their constituents are asking for, in both rural and urban parts of Michigan.

Future programs will explore the impact of public actions related to a host of core policy principles found in Michigan’s Children’s [Public Policy Playbook](#) developed to spur action for building Strong Families, Ready Learners, Thriving Students and Successful Transitions. Among them: child care, early childhood education and development, the child welfare and foster care systems, family supports and kinship care, adult learners and family literacy, and youth involved in the juvenile justice system, among policy priority areas Michigan’s Children

Look for *Speaking for Kids* on hosting sites – **Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify and YouTube.**

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