

## MORGAN WALTHALL-SANDERS, MSW

Morgan Walthall-Sanders, M.S.W., is the Texas State Director of Public Affairs for the March of Dimes. As director, Ms. Walthall-Sanders works with March of Dimes volunteers to develop and implement the Texas chapter's advocacy efforts on issues related to birth defects, newborn screening, immunization and access to affordable health care for children and pregnant women.

Since joining the organization in 2005, Ms. Walthall-Sanders has been involved with the implementation of House Bill 790, related to the newborn screening expansion. Ms. Walthall-Sanders was instrumental in ensuring that biotinidase was included in the expanded panel.

Recently, Ms. Walthall-Sanders lead March of Dimes advocacy efforts to add language to point of sale warning signs posted where tobacco products are sold—specifically to warn pregnant women of the risks of smoking. Ms. Walthall-Sanders also worked closely with the Texas CHIP Coalition, successfully advocating for policy changes to CHIP that will improve access to the program by both eliminating the 90-day waiting period and allowing for 12 months of continuous eligibility.

Ms. Walthall-Sanders also works as a state liaison for the March of Dimes Office of Government Affairs. Her responsibilities include establishing relationships with congressional district offices and responding as needed to ensure members of Congress are aware of March of Dimes advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. Ms. Walthall-Sanders worked hand-in-hand with the March of Dimes Office of Government Affairs to ensure the passage of the PREEMIE Act, which was signed by the President in late 2006. Ms. Walthall-Sanders has also worked with Texas congressional members to secure their support of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act.

Prior to working for the March of Dimes, Ms. Walthall-Sanders was the Legislative Aide for State Representative John E. Davis during the 2005 Texas Regular Legislative Session. Ms. Walthall-Sanders worked on issues related to both public and mental health.

Ms. Walthall-Sanders completed her undergraduate studies in psychology and counseling at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri. She then received her Master's of Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin.

Ms. Walthall-Sanders lives in Austin, Texas and enjoys playing tennis and soccer and spending time with her friends and family.