

Katharine Ligon, MSW**Policy Expert and Former Legislative Staffer**

Katharine Ligon's path to social change stems from more than six years of working in direct practice with children and families affected by social injustices (e.g. oppression, poverty, and inaccessible mental and substance abuse treatment). First, as a volunteer in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, which is a country locked in a cycle of poverty, and then as the Placement Supervisor for Foster Care and Residential Treatment Center at DePelchin Children's Center in Houston, Texas. These unique experiences enlightened her to the social, financial, and health inequities and injustices many children and families face, especially in the United States. After obtaining her Masters of Social Work from the University of Houston, she worked in and out of the Texas Capitol for nine years seeking to improve the lives of families by engaging with a spectrum of stakeholders to address social justice policy issues including access to health care and health care disparities. Katharine's experiences, knowledge, skills, and passion enable her to formulate and execute strategic legislative agendas to ensure access to opportunities for wellness and success for all Texans.