



FIRST FOCUS
CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN

2018
CHAMPIONS AND DEFENDERS
OF CHILDREN

CONGRESSIONAL SCORECARD
115TH CONGRESS – 2ND SESSION



THE FIRST FOCUS CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN CONGRESSIONAL SCORECARD

Our nation's children face an array of problems, including poverty, violence, abuse, neglect, hunger, education inequity, poor nutrition, homelessness, lack of health coverage, infant and child mortality, and family separation of mixed immigrant households. These issues demand attention, policy solutions, political will, and action that make children a priority.

Unfortunately, kids are far too often an afterthought in Congress. The problem is that children don't vote and don't have Political Action Committees (PACs) that garner and demand attention.

Children need Champions and Defenders who are willing to focus on, support, raise their voices, and attach their name to legislation that would improve the lives of our nation's children and actively oppose legislation that would harm kids.

In an attempt to recognize those lawmakers in the second session of the 115th Congress who worked to improve the lives of our nation's children through public policy change, we are pleased to present our 2018 Scorecard.

THE 2018 CHAMPIONS AND DEFENDERS OF CHILDREN

This year's 120 Champions and Defenders of Children include 40 senators and 80 representatives who have stepped forward to make children a top priority in the Senate and House. Many others in Congress have taken important votes that would either improve the lives of children or protect children from harm or might prioritize children on a specific issue. In contrast, what makes this group of 120 policymakers unique is that they have moved to address problems facing America's children across a whole range of issues.

Champions consistently pursue policies and legislation that make children a priority. **Defenders** often consider children's interests in their votes and bills. Furthermore, as Congress debates and sets the nation's federal priorities on policy and budget matters, these lawmakers are willing to ask—and demand a positive answer to—the simple but critically important question: “Is it good for the children?”

As advocates for children, we want to take this opportunity to spotlight the 2018 Champions and Defenders of Children and express our gratitude and appreciation to them for their support for children.

However, we must also solemnly reflect on the fact that we are still short of what it takes to enact meaningful change for children across all issue areas. For example, nearly 20 percent, or 1 in 5, of our nation's children are living in poverty, and yet, Congress continues to pay little attention to that crisis.

That inaction is unacceptable. We must redouble our efforts to encourage the public to make children a priority when they vote and to get legislators to make children a priority when they arrive in Washington, D.C. Children are counting on us to hold our legislators accountable for representing and addressing their needs.

METHODOLOGY

Individual Lawmakers:

- » **Key Votes:** Accompanying this Scorecard is a “Key Votes” page on our website. FFCC recognizes that not all votes are equal. Therefore, we weigh major votes more heavily than minor votes. We also give members extra points if they show the courage to vote in the best interest of children in the face of an opposing position from a majority of their party. For a list of 2018 Key Votes, see page 6.
- » **Key Bills:** Going a step further, the FFCC Congressional Scorecard recognizes that lawmakers often negotiate and make decisions on legislation well before House and Senate votes. Consequently, rather than just tracking votes on bills and amendments, the FFCC Congressional Scorecard includes a more in-depth analytical framework. Our Scorecard awards additional points to policymakers from our website’s “Bill Tracker” based on their sponsorship and co-sponsorship (original sponsors are awarded more points) of key legislation that helps children. For a list of 2018 Key Bills, see page 10.

Finally, we also award points based on membership in congressional caucuses specific to children and actions (including major letters, floor speeches, hearings, etc.) policymakers engage in that would positively or negatively impact children.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN



THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)
Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
Sen. Robert Casey (D-PA)
Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)
Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)
Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL)
Sen. Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY)
Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA)

Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)
Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA)
Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ)
Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)
Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)
Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY)
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)

THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA)
Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA)
Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-CA)
Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA)
Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI)
Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA)
Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY)
Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)
Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO)
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA)
Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN)
Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)
Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)
Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL)
Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL)
Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)
Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA)
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)

Rep. James Langevin (D-RI)
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)
Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM)
Rep. James McGovern (D-MA)
Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI)
Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)
Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)
Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI)
Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
Rep. Jacky Rosen (D-NV)
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL)
Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL)
Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)
Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL)
Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA)
Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

DEFENDERS OF CHILDREN



THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)
Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)
Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)
Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)
Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH)
Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND)
Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)
Sen. Angus King (I-ME)
Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT)
Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)
Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)
Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)
Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM)
Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Rep. Nanette Barragan (D-CA)
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)
Rep. Andre Carson (D-IN)
Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL)
Rep. Stephen Cohen (D-TN)
Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT)
Rep. Luis Correa (D-CA)
Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL)
Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA)
Rep. Susan DelBene (D-WA)
Rep. Deborah Dingell (D-MI)
Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY)
Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY)
Rep. Dwight Evans (D-PA)
Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)
Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA)
Rep. Will Hurd (R-TX)
Rep. John Katko (R-NY)
Rep. Joseph Kennedy (D-MA)

Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-MI)
Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI)
Rep. John Lewis (D-GA)
Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL)
Rep. David Loebsack (D-IA)
Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY)
Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA)
Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D-TX)
Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)
Rep. David Reichert (R-WA)
Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA)
Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)
Rep. Jose Serrano (D-NY)
Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA)
Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH)
Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA)
Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH)
Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI)
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)
Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY)

KEY VOTES



SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 12

FFCC Position: SUPPORT (Failed 50-48 – needed 60 votes to pass)

Amendment Sponsor: Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

To create a point of order against legislation that would negatively impact health coverage for children by efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 25

FFCC Position: SUPPORT (Failed 49-49 – needed 60 votes to pass)

Amendment Sponsor: Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)

To create a point of order against legislation that would modify Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or private health insurance if the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) found that such changes would result in lower coverage rates, reduced benefits, or decreased affordability for children.

SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 30

FFCC Position: SUPPORT (Failed 52-47 – needed 60 votes to pass)

Amendment Sponsors: Sens. Chris Coons (D-DE) and John McCain(R-AZ)

For cloture on amendment S.Amdt.1955 on H.R. 2579 (Immigration Bill) – making Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients eligible for citizenship in as little as five years.

SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 54

FFCC Position: OPPOSE (Confirmation passed on a 50-50 vote and tiebreaker by Vice President Mike Pence)

Confirmation vote on the nomination of Betsy DeVos to be the Secretary of Education.

SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 134

FFCC Position: SUPPORT (Failed 48-50 – needed 60 votes to pass)

Motion to discharge the Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act (H.R. 3)

SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 141

FFCC Position: SUPPORT (Passed 68-30)

Amendment Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA)

Motion to table S.Amdt. 3383 in the 2018 Farm Bill (H.R. 2) which would have implemented mandatory work requirements for SNAP recipients.

SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 143

FFCC Position: SUPPORT (Passed 86-11)

On passage of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Farm Bill) (H.R. 2)

SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 169

FFCC Position: OPPOSE (Failed by a vote of 45-55)

Amendment Sponsor: Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)

To repeal provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that would have negatively impacted children's health coverage.

SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 177

FFCC Position: SUPPORT (Passed by a vote of 52-48)
Amendment Sponsor: Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV)

To strike the sunset of the repeal of the tax on employee health insurance premiums and health plan benefits (related to S. 58).

SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 179

FFCC Position: OPPOSE (Failed by a vote of 49-51)
Amendment Sponsor: Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

To repeal provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that would have negatively impacted children's health coverage.

SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 259

FFCC Position: SUPPORT (Passed by a vote of 87-13)

On passage of the Conference Report for the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Farm Bill) (H.R. 2)

SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 295

FFCC Position: SUPPORT (Failed by a vote of 48-52)
Amendment Sponsor: Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)

To improve and expand the Child Tax Credit.

SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 296

FFCC Position: SUPPORT (Failed by a vote of 29-71)
Amendment Sponsor: Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)

To increase the refundability of the Child Tax Credit.

HOUSE ROLL CALL VOTE 205

FFCC Position: OPPOSE (Failed by a vote of 198-213)

On passage of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Farm Bill) (H.R.2) – This version of the bill contained work requirements for recipients of SNAP benefits that would have negatively impacted children.

HOUSE ROLL CALL VOTE 243

FFCC Position: OPPOSE (Passed by a vote of 210-206)

On passage of the Fiscal 2019 Appropriations Recisions Package (H.R. 3)

HOUSE ROLL CALL VOTE 256

FFCC Position: OPPOSE (Passed by a vote of 217-213)

To pass the American Health Care Act, which would have amended the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid in ways that would have negatively impacted children's health coverage (H.R. 1628).

HOUSE ROLL CALL VOTE 284

FFCC Position: OPPOSE (Passed by a vote of 213-211)

On passage of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Farm Bill) (H.R.2). This version of the bill contained work requirements for recipients of SNAP benefits that would have negatively impacted children.

HOUSE ROLL CALL VOTE 306

FFCC Position: OPPOSE (Passed by a vote of 238-184)

On passage of the Verify Act (H.R. 2581).

HOUSE ROLL CALL VOTE 310

FFCC Position: SUPPORT (Passed by a vote of 382-19)

On passage of the Reducing Unnecessary Barriers for Relative Foster Parents Act (H.R. 2866).

HOUSE ROLL CALL VOTE 434

FFCC Position: SUPPORT (Passed by a vote of 382-19)

On passage of the 2018 Farm Bill (H.R.2)

HOUSE ROLL CALL VOTE 605

FFCC Position: SUPPORT (Failed by a vote of 187-231)

On a motion to recommit with instructions to extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

HOUSE ROLL CALL VOTE 606

FFCC Position: SUPPORT (Passed by a vote of 242-174)

On passage of the Community Health and Medical Professionals Improve Our Nation (CHAMPION) Act of 2017, which included an extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

KEY BILLS



S. 58 – MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Dean Heller (R-NV) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM)

The legislation would repeal the “Cadillac Tax,” which is a 40 percent excise tax on the cost of employer-sponsored health coverage that exceeds a certain and arbitrarily-defined premium benefit threshold for self-only and family coverage. FFCC analysis shows the excise tax could disproportionately harm dependent coverage for children.

S. 128 – BRIDGE ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Richard Durbin (D-IL)

The legislation would continue protections for beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program by allowing them to maintain lawful status to continue to live in the U.S. and become eligible for a work permit without fear of deportation.

S. 229 – PROTECT DREAMER CONFIDENTIALITY ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Tom Udall (D-NM), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Kamala Harris (D-CA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Jack Reed (D-RI)

The legislation provides for the confidentiality of information submitted in requests for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

S. 292 – CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVORSHIP, TREATMENT, ACCESS, AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2018

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)

This bill amends the Public Health Service Act to authorize the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to provide support to collect the medical specimens and information of children, adolescents, and young adults with selected cancers that have the least effective treatments in order to achieve a better understanding of these cancers and the effects of treatment.

S. 337 – FAMILY AND MEDICAL INSURANCE LEAVE ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) and 25 other original sponsors

The bill would make workers eligible for up to 12 weeks of partial income for family and medical leave, including pregnancy, childbirth recovery, serious health condition of a child, parent, spouse, or domestic partner, birth or adoption of a child and/or military caregiving and leave.

S. 434 – HOUSING FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Al Franken (D-WI) and Rob Portman (R-OH)

The bill modifies the low-income housing tax credit to qualify low-income building units that provide housing for homeless children, youth, or veterans who are full-time students for the credit.

S. 439 – TIMELY MENTAL HEALTH FOR FOSTER YOUTH ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Roy Blunt (R-MO), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), John Boozman (R-AR), and Robert Casey (D-PA)

The legislation requires that states provide an initial mental health screening of any child in foster care within 30 days after the child enters into foster care. In the case of any child for whom a mental health issue is identified by the initial screening, a comprehensive assessment of the child's mental health must be completed within 60 days after the child's entry into foster care.

S. 470 – THE CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Robert Casey (D-PA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Patty Murray (D-WA), Ben Cardin (D-MD), and Robert Menendez (D-NJ)

The bill expands the tax credit for employment-related expenses incurred for child care.

S. 534 – PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND SAFE SPORT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Susan Collins (R-ME), and 13 other original cosponsors

The legislation extends the duty to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, to adults authorized to interact with minor or amateur athletes at certain facilities under the jurisdiction of a sports organization that is recognized by the International Olympic Committee.

S. 611 – HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Rob Portman (R-OH)

This legislation amends the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to modify definitions related to homeless individuals and homeless children or youth as used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to verify eligibility for HUD homeless assistance programs to align them with the definition of "homeless" used to verify eligibility for other federal assistance programs. The amended definitions would increase access to federal homeless programs by homeless children, youth, and families.

S. 636 – HEALTHY FAMILIES ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and 30 other original cosponsors

The bill would allow workers in businesses with 15 or more employees to earn paid sick days and provide workers with the option to use paid leave for a variety of child health-related reasons.

S. 684 – NATIONAL ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE HOME STUDY ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and James Lankford (R-OK)

A bill to establish a national, research-based, and comprehensive home study assessment process for the evaluation of prospective foster parents and adoptive parents and provide funding to States and Indian tribes to adopt such a process.

S. 772 – ASHYLNNE MIKE AMBER ALERT IN INDIAN COUNTRY ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)

The bill reauthorizes the AMBER Alert grant program and makes modifications to integrate tribal AMBER Alert systems into the state systems and make Indian tribes eligible for AMBER Alert grants.

S. 774 – TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Richard Durbin (D-IL), Al Franken (D-MN), and Cory Booker (D-NJ)

The bill would make a number of modifications to various provisions of law to improve the trauma-informed support services and mental health care for children.

S. 860 – THE JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Richard Durbin (D-IL), John Cornyn (R-TX), Roy Blunt (R-MO), and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

The legislation modifies and reauthorizes the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A).

S. 874 – AT-RISK YOUTH MEDICAID PROTECTION ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Cory Booker (D-NJ)

A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to protect the enrollment of incarcerated youth for medical assistance under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes.

S. 885 – IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES FOR FOSTER YOUTH ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Robert Casey (D-PA) and Ben Cardin (D-MD)

The bill expands the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to include the hiring of qualified foster care transitional youth.

S. 1064 – ANTI-LUNCH SHAMING ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Tom Udall (D-NM), Robert Casey (D-PA), and Martin Heinrich (D-NM)

The legislation would ban schools from stigmatizing children whose parents cannot afford to pay for their school lunches and require schools to direct communications about unpaid school lunch bills to the parent, rather than penalizing the child.

S. 1112 – MATERNAL HEALTH ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)

The bill would provide grants to states, territories, and tribes to review pregnancy-related deaths, establish maternal mortality review boards, and develop plans to educate health care providers about maternal deaths and establish protocols to prevent maternal deaths.

S. 1215 – FOSTER YOUTH INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Jack Reed (D-RI)

The bill extends federal funding for services for youth up to age 23 who age out of foster care before they were 21.

S. 1227 – STABILIZE MEDICAID AND CHIP COVERAGE ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

The bill provides for 12-month continuous enrollment under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and eliminates coverage waiting periods in CHIP.

S. 1242 – RAISE THE WAGE ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-VT)

This bill amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the federal wage for regular employees over a seven year period, for tipped employees, and for newly hired employees who are less than 20 years old.

S. 1257 – MODERNIZING THE INTERSTATE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Todd Young (R-IN), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Al Franken (D-MN), Gary Peters (D-MI), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Roy Blunt (R-MO)

A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to adopt an electronic system to help expedite the placement of children in foster care or guardianship, or for adoption, across State lines, and to provide funding to aid States in developing such a system, and for other purposes.

S. 1290 – WELFARE REFORM AND UPWARD MOBILITY ACT

FFCC Position: OPPOSE

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Mike Lee (R-UT) and Ted Cruz (R-TX)

The bill would impose harsh new requirements on recipients of anti-poverty programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, as well as reduce funding for federal housing assistance through the transformation of it into a block grant.

S. 1341 – CHILDREN DON'T BELONG ON TOBACCO FARMS ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Richard Durbin (D-IL), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY), Jack Reed (D-RI), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Edward Markey (D-MA), Al Franken (D-MN), and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

The legislation redefines child labor prohibitions under the Fair Labor Standards Act to include the employment of a child under the age of 18 who has direct contact with tobacco plants or dried tobacco leaves.

S. 1357 – FAMILY-BASED CARE SERVICES ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Rob Portman (R-OH), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), and Roy Blunt (R-MO)

The bill establishes a definition in Medicaid for “qualified therapeutic family care services” to provide coverage for services for children under age 21 who need institution-level care but can be treated in a community placement through a licensed and accredited program.

S. 1402 – SCHOOL FOOD MODERNIZATION ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND)

The legislation provides needed assistance to schools through loan guarantees for kitchen infrastructure and equipment upgrades, authorizes grants for small but critical equipment purchases, and supportive innovative training opportunities to strengthen the school food service workforce.

S. 1522 – THE EVERY KID OUTDOORS ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)

The Every Kid Outdoors Act would codify an existing Interior Department initiative that provides free annual passes allowing fourth graders to visit national parks and other federal areas.

S. 1615 – DREAM ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Richard Durbin (D-IL), Jeff Flake (R-AZ), and Charles Schumer (D-NY)

The legislation provides legal status and a pathway to citizenship for nearly 800,000 long-term undocumented residents who entered the U.S. as children.

S. 1630 – CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Robert Casey (D-PA), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), and Sherrod Brown (D-OH)

The bill establishes a Federal Interagency Working Group on Reducing Child Poverty to develop a national target and plan to reduce the number of children living in poverty and extreme poverty in the U.S.

S. 1638 – THE FOSTERING STABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Al Franken (D-MN), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Angus King (I-ME), and Tim Scott (R-SC)

The bill provides priority under certain federally assisted housing programs to youth who age out of foster care.

S. 1694 – EDUCATION PREPARATION REFORM ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Jack Reed (D-RI), Robert Casey (D-PA), and Christopher Coons (D-DE)

The bill improves accountability for teacher preparation programs by requiring reporting on program features that are related to future success in the classroom, including admissions standards, clinical preparation requirements, and outcome measures such as placement, retention, and performance.

S. 1792 – FOSTERING SUCCESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Al Franken (D-MN)

The legislation establishes or expands transitions between K-12 and higher education for foster and homeless youth, including summer bridge programs and develops “institutions of excellence” committed to serving foster and homeless youth.

S. 1795 – HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS AND SUCCESS FOR HOMELESS AND FOSTER YOUTH ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Rob Portman (R-OH)

The bill would help homeless and foster youth access higher education through removing barriers to financial aid, as well as increase support on college campuses through housing assistance and resources to connect students to services.

S. 1797 – HEALTH INSURANCE FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Robert Casey (D-PA) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

This legislation clarifies that language in the Affordable Care Act fully extends Medicaid coverage to age 26 for all foster youth who were in foster care on their 18th birthday and were enrolled in Medicaid. This creates parity with other young adults, who are allowed to stay on their parents' health plans to age 26.

S. 1806 – CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)

A bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 and the Head Start Act to promote child care and early learning, and for other purposes.

S. 1827 – KIDS ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Robert Casey (D-PA), and Robert Menendez (D-NJ)

The legislation extended the authorization and funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Express Lane Enrollment, outreach and enrollment grants, the Childhood Obesity Demonstration Project, and Pediatric Quality Measures Program.

S. 1949 – AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT DEMONSTRATION (AHEAD) ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)

The bill would incentivize housing authorities and school districts to work together to address and prevent family homelessness.

S. 1964 – CHILD WELFARE OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ron Wyden (D-OR)

The bill encourages kinship guardianship placements and support payment rate equity for such placements, seeks to improve oversight of state child welfare programs, and strengthens national data on child fatalities from maltreatment.

S. 2018 – AMERICAN FAMILY ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to the child tax credit, to make the credit fully refundable, increase the amount of the credit and allow an additional credit for children who are under six years of age, require the amount of the credit to be adjusted annually for inflation after 2017, and require the Department of the Treasury to establish a program for making advance payments of the credit on a monthly basis.

S. 2144 – THE SECURE ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and 9 other originals

The legislation provides a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to immigrants from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements.

S.2468 – FAIR DAY IN COURT FOR KIDS ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)

This bill would ensure that children seeking protection in the United States are guaranteed legal counsel in their immigration proceedings. Additionally, this bill would provide that the Secretary of Homeland Security ensure that unaccompanied minors have access to counsel inside all immigration detention and border facilities.

S.2571 – RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH AND TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)

This bill would reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), which serves as the nation's key response to youth and young adults at risk of and experiencing homelessness. It will continue to provide a national framework for rural, urban, and suburban communities to help prevent and respond to youth homelessness. It also makes critical updates to strengthen individual and family efforts to prevent homelessness, ensure that youth are able to access runaway and homeless youth programs for the lengths of time and during ages that are appropriate for their needs, assist youth experiencing homelessness in completing high school and accessing higher education, and ensure proper identification of victims of sex and labor trafficking.

S.2723 – SNAP FOR KIDS ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)

Under the current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, low-income families with children receive very modest monthly benefits that often run out before the end of the month, especially for families with school-aged children. This bill would increase food assistance for school-aged children (5-17 years old) by \$42 per child per month, a 27 percent increase, and would adjust the formula for benefit calculations to make certain that families don't fall behind as food prices rise.

S.2923 – BUILDING CAPACITY FOR FAMILY-FOCUSED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ)

This bill would support the development of evidence-based family-focused residential treatment programs.

S.2924 – SUPPORTING FAMILY-FOCUSED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Tim Scott (R-SC)

This bill requires HHS to develop and issue guidance to states identifying opportunities and flexibilities under Medicaid (including waivers) for states to receive funding for providing substance abuse treatment to pregnant and postpartum women, parents, and guardians in family-focused residential treatment: Explain how states can coordinate funding provided under Medicaid, IV-E (foster care), and other HHS programs to support substance abuse treatment and other services provided by treatment facilities; and describe how states can coordinate Medicaid and foster care funding.

S.2926 – IMPROVING RECOVERY AND REUNIFYING FAMILIES ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Tim Scott (R-SC)

This bill would provide funding to HHS to replicate a program for parents with substance abuse issues that has been shown to reduce the length of time children spend in foster care. Specifically, this bill would test whether a program using a "recovery coach" model in Illinois (where caseworkers assist a parent through treatment and with other services) can be replicated in another state and yield the same results.

S.2937 – HELP SEPARATED CHILDREN ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)

This bill would protect children affected by immigration enforcement actions.

S.3042 – AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS)

The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 reauthorizes major agricultural programs, including the nation's largest federal food assistance program – the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), preserving access and eligibility for low-income families with children who depend on the program to put food on the table.

S.3091 – PROTECT KIDS AND PARENTS ACT

FFCC Position: OPPOSE

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)

A bill that would modify current protections and standards protecting migrant and refugee children from being placed in child detention facilities for lengthy periods of time..

S.3286 – CAMRA ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA)

The bill amends the Public Health Services Act to authorize a program on children and the media within the National Institutes of Health. The program aims to study the health and developmental effects of technology on infants, children, and adolescents.

S.3220 – REFUND TO RAINY DAY SAVINGS ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)

This bill requires the Department of the Treasury to establish and implement a Refund to Rainy Day Savings Program to permit a taxpayer to defer payment on 20% of a tax refund to be deposited into a Treasury Account, accumulate interest, and be disbursed to the taxpayer in six months.

S.3337 – MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR STUDENTS ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)

This bill amends the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

S.3362 – FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IN DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH)

A bill to provide grants to communities affected by substance use disorder to enable those communities to plan for and implement full-service community schools.

S.3474 – RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)

This bill establishes that HHS is responsible for the care and custody of unaccompanied minors, including those placed with sponsors, until the conclusion of the child's immigration proceedings or the child turns 18.

S.3558 – THE CHILD TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION AND WELFARE ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)

This bill ensures that qualified child welfare professionals and language interpreters are available at ports of entry as well as border patrol stations. It also outlines standards of care for the short-term custody of children with Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). These standards include a safe and sanitary living environment, access to legal services, and access to food and climate appropriate clothing.

S.J.RES. 48 – A JOINT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES RELATING TO PARENTAL RIGHTS.

FFCC Position: OPPOSE

Lead Sponsors: Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), James Risch (R-ID), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), and Marco Rubio (R-FL)

The resolution proposes a constitutional amendment that would declare that the "liberty of parents to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their children" as a "fundamental right." Such a constitutional standard would make it much more difficult to provide protections for children from child abuse or neglect or other dangerous or harmful actions short of a "parental action or decision that would end life."

S. 208 – PROMOTING AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE FOR EVERYONE (PACE) ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Angus King (I-ME) and Richard Burr (R-NC)

The bill amends the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to make it fully refundable, increase the rate for the credit, and adjust the credit for inflation.

H.R. 3 - SPENDING CUTS TO EXPIRED AND UNNECESSARY PROGRAMS ACT

FFCC Position: OPPOSE

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)

This bill rescinds approximately \$15 billion in budget authority over 2018-2028 that was proposed to be rescinded by the President under procedures included in the Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

H.R. 15 – RAISE THE WAGE ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Robert Scott (D-VA)

Amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the federal minimum wage for employees.

H.R. 173 – MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Mike Kelly (R-PA) and Joe Courtney (D-CT)

See summary for S. 58.

H.R. 253 – FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and Sander Levin (D-MI)

The legislation reforms federal child welfare financing streams to provide services to families who are at risk of entering the child welfare system by allowing federal reimbursement for mental health services, substance use treatment, in-home parenting skill training, etc. It also seeks to incentivize states to reduce placement of children in congregate care.

H.R. 269 – LOOK-BACK ELIMINATION ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. John Lewis (D-GA)

The bill extends federal funding to states for maintenance payments on behalf of each foster child, regardless of whether the child would have been eligible for aid under the former Aid to Families with Dependent Children program at the time of removal from the home.

H.R. 352 – STATE HEALTH FLEXIBILITY ACT

FFCC Position: OPPOSE

Lead Sponsor: Todd Rokita (R-IN)

This bill amends the Social Security Act to replace federal requirements for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) with health care block grants to states. A state may use block grant funds to: (1) provide health care services to indigent individuals; (2) fund risk adjustment mechanisms for the purpose of subsidizing the cost of private health insurance for the high risk population; and (3) support other welfare-related programs.

H.R. 496 – BRIDGE ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO), Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), Carlos Curbelo (R-FL), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), Jeff Denham (R-CA), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), and Judy Chu (D-CA)

See summary for S. 128.

H.R. 682 – PRESERVING ACCESS TO MEDICAID FOR AMERICANS ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: OPPOSE

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), Steve Russell (R-OK), and Glenn Grothman (R-WI)

The bill would eliminate specified maintenance of effort requirements for states to protect the health coverage of millions of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

H.R. 737 – CARING START ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Katherine Clark (D-MA) and Tom Reed (R-NY)

The bill would support the implementation of evidence-based trauma-informed practices, age-appropriate positive behavioral interventions and supports, early childhood mental health consultation, and prevention of suspension and expulsion of children in Head Start.

H.R. 798 – CHILD TAX CREDIT EQUITY FOR PUERTO RICO ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon (R-PR At Large)

The legislation amends the refundable portion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to allow residents of Puerto Rico to claim the refundable portion of the CTC on the same basis as U.S. taxpayers.

H.R. 821 – CHILD TAX CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to the child tax credit, to: (1) allow taxpayers an increased \$3,600 tax credit for each young child under the age of six, subject to specified limitations based on adjusted gross income; (2) require the Department of the Treasury to establish a program to make advance payments of the young child tax credit; (3) modify the refundable portion of the child tax credit; and (4) require annual inflation adjustments for both the child tax credit and the young child tax credit and young child tax credit.

H.R. 947 – FAMILY AND MEDICAL INSURANCE LEAVE ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and 112 original cosponsors

The bill amends the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to allow employees to take, as additional leave, time to attend educational and extracurricular activities of their children or grandchildren.

H.R. 1013 – PRE-K TEACHER PARITY ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Joaquin Castro (D-TX), Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), and Richard Nolan (D-MN)

The legislation allows the tax education for certain expenses of elementary and secondary teachers to be extended to individuals who provide instruction, child care, or administrative support in an early childhood education program.

H.R. 1069 – TIMELY MENTAL HEALTH FOR FOSTER YOUTH ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Brenda Lawrence (D-MI), James Langevin (D-RI), Karen Bass (D-CA), Grace Napolitano (D-CA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC At Large), and Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

See summary for S. 439.

H.R. 1143 – HYGIENE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Keith Ellison (D-MN), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), John Conyers (D-MI), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC At Large), and Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM)

The bill would create demonstration projects to help low-income families address the diapering needs of their children.

H.R. 1146 – EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATION ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN)

The legislation would provide grants to organizations that provide civil legal services to families facing eviction, landlord/tenant disputes, fair housing discrimination, or other housing-related issues.

H.R. 1318 – PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATHS ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA), John Conyers (D-MI), Ryan Costello (R-PA), and Diana DeGette (D-CO)

See summary for S. 1112.

H.R. 1345 – PROTECT CHILDREN FROM THEFT ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. James Langevin (D-RI), David Price (D-NC), Katherine Clark (D-MA), and Karen Bass (D-CA)

The bill amends the Fair Credit Reporting Act to improve the protection of a minor's credit report.

H.R. 1466 – 21ST CENTURY CHILD CARE INVESTMENT ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA)

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow a tax credit for employment-related expenses for services provided by a high quality child care center. The credit applies to taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes below specified levels.

H.R. 1511 – HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Steve Stivers (R-OH) and David Loebsack (D-IA)

See summary for S. 611.

H.R. 1516 – HEALTHY FAMILIES ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and 107 original cosponsors

See summary for S. 636.

H.R. 1628 – AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: OPPOSE

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Diane Black (R-TN)

The legislation would repeal a number of provisions in the Affordable Care Act that expanded health insurance coverage and convert the Medicaid program's financing to a per capita cap with the option to move children into a block grant.

H.R. 1650 – NATIONAL ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE HOME STUDY ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Jared Huffman (D-CA), Steve Russell (R-OK), and Karen Bass (D-CA)

The bill would create a demonstration program for states to adopt a specific evidence-based, uniform, national home study program for the evaluation of prospective foster parents and adoptive parents.

H.R. 1748 – OPENING DOORS FOR YOUTH ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) and 52 original cosponsors

The bill provides at-risk and disconnected youth with subsidized summer and year-round employment and assists local community partnerships in improving high school graduation and youth employment rates.

H.R. 1757 – TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL), Robin Kelly (D-IL), and Cheri Bustos (D-IL)

See summary for S. 774.

H.R. 1809 – JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Jason Lewis (R-MN), Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Todd Rokita (R-IN), Bobby Scott (D-VA), Susan Davis (D-CA), and Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

See summary for S. 860.

H.R. 1925 – AT-RISK YOUTH MEDICAID PROTECTION ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Tony Cardenas (D-CA) and Morgan Griffin (R-VA)

See summary for S. 874.

H.R. 1973 – PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS FROM SEXUAL ABUSE ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Susan Brooks (R-IN), Lois Frankel (D-FL), and Bob Goodlatte (R-VA)

See summary for S. 534.

H.R. 2043 – FAIR DAY IN COURTS FOR KIDS ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)

See summary for S.2468

H.R. 2060 – IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES FOR FOSTER YOUTH ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL), David Reichert (R-WA), and Tom Reed (R-NY)

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to expand the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to include the hiring of qualified foster care transition youth.

H.R. 2069 – FOSTERING STABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Michael Turner (R-OH), Daniel Kildee (D-MI), James Langevin (D-RI), Tom Marino (R-PA), J. French Hill (R-AZ), Gwen Moore (D-WI), and Karen Bass (D-CA)

See summary for S. 1638.

H.R. 2200 – FREDERICK DOUGLASS TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Christopher Smith (R-NJ), Karen Bass (D-CA), Edward Royce (R-CA), Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), Susan Brooks (R-IN), Lois Frankel (D-FL), Ann Wagner (R-MO), Tony Cardenas (D-CA), Ted Poe (R-TX), and Ryan Costello (R-PA)

The bill reauthorizes the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

H.R. 2236 – FOSTER AND HOMELESS YOUTH FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL), Gwen Moore (D-WI), James Langevin (D-RI), and Bobby Rush (D-IL)

The bill modifies certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility requirements for foster care and homeless youth who are enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education.

H.R. 2238 – CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Val Butler Demings (D-FL)

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to the tax credit for employment-related expenses incurred for the care of a taxpayer's dependent, to (1) increase to \$126,000, the adjusted gross income threshold level above which such credit is incrementally reduced; (2) increase the dollar limit on the allowable amount of such credit; (3) allow an inflation adjustment to the adjusted gross income threshold and the maximum credit amounts, beginning after 2018; and (4) make such credit refundable.

H.R. 2290 – FAMILY-BASED CARE SERVICES ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Tom Cole (R-OK), Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), and Diana DeGette (D-CO)

See summary for S. 1357.

H.R. 2401 – ANTI-LUNCH SHAMING ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Michelle Lujan-Grisham (D-NM), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Bobby Scott (D-VA), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), and Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)

See summary for S. 1064.

H.R. 2512 – FOSTER YOUTH DRIVING ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL), Debbie Dingell (D-MI), and Gwen Moore (D-WI)

The legislation expands foster parent training and provides funding to support the obtainment of a driver's license for foster youth.

H.R. 2572 – PROTECT FAMILY VALUES AT THE BORDER ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and 20 other original cosponsors

The legislation would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to consider safety and family concerns in any action related to the repatriation or prosecution of individuals apprehended for immigration violations.

H.R. 2581 – VERIFY FIRST ACT

FFCC Position: OPPOSE

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Lou Barletta (R-PA), Mike Kelly (R-PA), James Renacci (R-OH), Kristi Noem (R-SD), Jeff Duncan (R-SC), Mo Brooks (R-AL), Mike Rogers (R-AL), David McKinley (R-WV), and Michael McCaul (R-TX)

The legislation created new barriers to health coverage for both citizens and immigrants by imposing new verification measures that would delay coverage for those eligible for health insurance coverage.

H.R. 2628 – STABILIZE MEDICAID AND CHIP COVERAGE ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Gene Green (D-TX) and Joe Barton (R-TX)

See summary of S. 1227.

H.R. 2633 – CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT ENHANCEMENT ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), and Suzan DelBene (D-WA)

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to the tax credit for employment-related expenses incurred for the care of a taxpayer's dependent, to (1) increase to \$120,000, the adjusted gross income threshold level above which such credit is incrementally reduced; (2) increase the dollar limit on the allowable amount of such credit; (3) allow an inflation adjustment to the adjusted gross income threshold and the maximum credit amounts, beginning after 2018; and (4) make such credit refundable.

H.R. 2681 – FOSTER EITC ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)

The bill increases the age to 21 at which the Earned Income Tax Credit is allowed for former foster children.

H.R. 2742 – MODERNIZE THE INTERSTATE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Jackie Walorski (R-IN) and Danny Davis (D-IL)

The legislation requires the procedures a state must have in effect for the orderly and timely interstate placement of children in foster care to include an electronic interstate case-processing system.

H.R. 2788 – HEAL FOR IMMIGRANT WOMEN AND FAMILIES ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM)

This bill amends titles XIX (Medicaid) and XXI (CHIP) of the Social Security Act to extend Medicaid and CHIP coverage to aliens lawfully present in the United States who otherwise meet eligibility requirements.

H.R. 2832 – WELFARE REFORM AND UPWARD MOBILITY ACT

FFCC Position: OPPOSE

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Jim Jordan (R-OH), Dave Brat (R-VA), Bruce Westerman (R-AR), and Mark Meadows (R-NC)

The bill would provide for an overall spending limit on means-tested welfare programs and impose new requirements on recipients of anti-poverty programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, as well as reducing funding for federal housing assistance.

H.R. 2834 – PARTNERSHIP GRANTS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AFFECTED BY PARENTAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL) and Kristi Noem (R-SC)

The bill provides funding to address substance abuse to state and regional partnerships to prevent child abuse and neglect.

H.R. 2847 – IMPROVED SERVICES FOR OLDER YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. John Faso (R-NY), Tom Reed (R-NY), and Karen Bass (D-CA)

The bill authorizes states to extend foster care eligibility for assistance and services to youth who have aged out of foster care but have not yet reached the age of 23.

H.R. 2857 – SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Kristi Noem (R-SD) and Judy Chu (D-CA)

The legislation allows family foster care maintenance payments for children placed with a parent in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance abuse.

H.R. 2866 – REDUCING BARRIERS FOR RELATIVE FOSTER PARENTS ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) and Terri Sewell (D-AL)

The bill would help create uniformity in licensing standards and improve the current practice of ensuring a child is placed in a safe home.

H.R. 2878 – CHILDREN DON'T BELONG ON TOBACCO FARMS ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) and 14 original cosponsors

See summary for S. 1341.

H.R. 2886 – CARE ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and 12 original cosponsors

The bill strengthens various provisions of law to protect children with respect to child labor.

H.R. 2959 – CHILD HEALTH OUTREACH AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAM ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)

This bill extends funding through FY2023 for specified outreach and enrollment grants under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Additionally, the bill expands the list of qualified grant recipients to include parent mentors.

H.R. 3006 – SCHOOL FOOD MODERNIZATION ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Lou Barletta (R-PA), Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA), and Glenn Thompson (R-PA)

See Summary of S. 1402.

H.R. 3024 – STOP CHILD ABUSE IN RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS FOR TEENS ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)

Directs HHS to require programs that modify behaviors of children in residential environments to prohibit abuse and neglect.

H.R. 3192 – CHIP MENTAL HEALTH PARITY ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Kennedy (D-MA)

To amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to ensure access to mental health services for children under the Children's Health Insurance Program.

H.R. 3381 – CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), and Gerald Connolly (D-VA)

See summary of S. 1630.

H.R. 3440 – DREAM ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)

See summary of S. 1615.

H.R. 3525 – HOME VISITING WORKS ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL) and 31 original cosponsors

The legislation would reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program.

H.R. 3632 – PROMOTING AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE FOR EVERYONE (PACE) ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Kevin Yoder (R-KS) and Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)

See summary for S. 208.

H.R. 3636 – EDUCATOR PREPARATION REFORM ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Ruben Kihuen (D-NV), Mark Takano (D-CA), Barbara Lee (D-CA), and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

The legislation would improve the quality and accountability for educator preparation programs.

H.R. 3643 – CHILDREN FIRST ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Joe Crowley (D-NY)

This bill would amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide additional child care funding.

H.R. 3670 – RENT RELIEF ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Joe Crowley (D-NY)

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow a refundable tax credit for individuals who pay rent for a principal residence that exceeds 30% of the individual's gross income for the taxable year.

H.R. 3695 – PROTECT DREAMER CONFIDENTIALITY ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Beto O'Rourke (D-TX) and Mike Coffman (R-CO)

See summary for S. 229.

H.R. 3703 – NO SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS WITH DUIS ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY)

The bill prohibits any state, state educational agency, or local educational agency receiving Elementary and Secondary Education Act funding from employing an individual as a school bus driver who has been convicted of, or pled guilty to, drunk driving or a driving violation that is a felony under state law.

H.R. 3740 – THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS AND SUCCESS FOR HOMELESS AND FOSTER YOUTH ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Katerine Clark (D-MA), Don Young (R-AK), Bobby Scott (D-VA), and Susan Davis (D-CA)

See summary for S. 1795.

H.R. 3742 – THE FOSTERING SUCCESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Bobby Scott (D-VA), and Susan Davis (D-CA)

See summary of S. 1792.

H.R. 3773 – CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 and the Head Start Act to promote child care and early learning.

H.R. 3875 – COLLEGE STUDENT HUNGER ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Al Lawson (D-FL), Dwight Evans (D-PA), Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ), Frederica Wilson (D-FL), James McGovern (D-MA), Gwen Moore (D-WI), Donald Payne (D-NJ), Luis Correa (D-CA), Alcee Hastings (D-FL), and Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)

The bill expands the eligibility of students to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

H.R. 3921 – HEALTHY KIDS ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX)

The bill would reauthorize and extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for five years and includes much of the language from S. 1827.

H.R. 4101 – SCHOOL MILK NUTRITION ACT

FFCC Position: OPPOSE

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and Joe Courtney (D-CT)

In May 2017, USDA Secretary Perdue made administrative changes in the school lunch program to allow schools to serve 1 percent flavored milk through the school meals program. This bill would make that administrative decision permanent and expand it to include WIC.

H.R. 4184 – ESPERER ACT OF 2017

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL), Alcee Hastings (D-FL), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), and Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

The bill adjusts the immigration status of certain foreign nationals in temporary protected status in the United States.

H.R. 4234 – PREPARING HOMELESS YOUTH FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. James Renacci (R-OH), Derek Kilmer (D-WA), Steve Stivers (R-OH), and Seth Moulton (D-MA)

The bill authorizes college and career counseling for homeless children and youth.

H.R. 4541 – CHAMPION KIDS ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Richard Neal (D-MA), and Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)

This bill would extend funding for certain public health programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4998 – HEALTH INSURANCE FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. G.K Butterfield (D-NC), Joseph Kennedy (D-MA), Karen Bass (D-CA), Kathy Castor (D-FL), Tony Cardenas (D-CA), and Yvette Clark (D-NY)

This bill would amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for former foster youth.

H.R. 5118 – USACCOUNTS: INVESTING IN AMERICA'S FUTURE ACT OF 2018

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-NY)

This bill would establish an individual child savings account for every child born in the U.S., and through a fund created at the Treasury Department, provide \$500 in seed money to each fund. The government will fully match any funds contributed to the account up to \$500 per year. The USAccounts Act can leverage state and local examples of child savings accounts to make the national program benefit all children.

H.R.5199 – EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES ACT

FFCC Position: OPPOSE

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN)

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow parents of eligible military dependent children to establish Military Education Savings Accounts, and for other purposes.

H.R.5339 – RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH AND TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY)

Would reauthorize the Runaway Youth and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), which serves as the nation's key response to youth and young adults at risk of and experiencing homelessness. It will continue to provide a national framework for rural, urban, and suburban communities to help prevent and respond to youth homelessness, ensure that youth are able to access runaway and homeless youth programs for the lengths of time and during ages that are appropriate for their needs, assist youth experiencing homelessness in completing high school and accessing higher education, and ensure proper identification of victims of sex and labor trafficking.

H.R.5414 – HELP SEPARATED FAMILIES ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)

To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that immigration status alone does not disqualify a parent, legal guardian, or relative from being a placement for a foster child, to authorize discretion to a State, county, or other political subdivision of a State to delay filing for termination of parental rights in foster care cases in which an otherwise fit and willing parent or legal guardian has been deported or is involved in (including detention pursuant to) an immigration proceeding, unless certain conditions have been met.

H.R.5942 – HEALTH EQUITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2018

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)

To improve the health of minority individuals, and for other purposes.

H.R.5950 – HELP SEPARATED CHILDREN ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)

This bill would provide critical, nationwide protocols to protect the rights of vulnerable populations and addresses the unique needs of children during immigration enforcement procedures. In light of the recent increase in family separations, children of immigrants are at risk of finding themselves suddenly without their primary caregiver with no time for the parents to coordinate care for them. This bill allows parents to make arrangements for their child's care and allows for children to visit their parents while they are detained. Additionally, this bill requires U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to consider the best interests of the children in all detention, release, and transfer decisions affecting their parents.

H.R.6134 – EQUAL PROTECTION OF UNACCOMPANIED MINORS ACT

FFCC Position: OPPOSE

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC)

This bill would amend TVPRA rules for unaccompanied alien children to include repatriation of a child to any country in agreement with the U.S., increase sponsor information to be provided, and require HHS to provide this information to DHS, which increases the standards for special immigrant juvenile status.

H.R.6964 – JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 2018

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsors: Reps. Jason Lewis (R-MN) and Bobby Scott (D-VA)

To reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

H.R.7030 – PREVENT CHILD HARM ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

To protect the information obtained by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the placement of unaccompanied alien children from being used for any purpose other than providing safe and secure placements, and for other purposes.

H.R.7185 – WEEKENDS WITHOUT HUNGER ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV)

This bill would amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a weekend and holiday feeding program to provide nutritious food to at-risk school children on the weekends and during extended school holidays throughout the year.

H.R.7204 – THE DIPLOMA ACT

FFCC Position: SUPPORT

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA)

The DIPLOMA Act would provide federal grants to states to support community schools and develop a comprehensive child and youth strategy.

This publication was created by First Focus Campaign for Children in April 2019.

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