2017
CHAMPIONS AND DEFENDERS
FOR CHILDREN

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD
115TH CONGRESS – 1ST SESSION
THE FIRST FOCUS CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN
LEGISLATIVE 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 in mixed immigrant households that 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 for Children, 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 1st Session of the 115th Congress who are actively working on and trying to improve the lives of our nation’s children through public policy change, we are pleased to present our Champions and Defenders for Children Scorecard.

THE 2017 CHAMPIONS AND DEFENDERS FOR 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.

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 2017 Champions and Defenders for Children and express our gratitude and appreciation to them for their exemplary support for children.

Congressional Champions for Children have the highest point totals (see methodology) in the House and Senate with respect to key votes, bill introductions and cosponsorships, and other actions where lawmakers have put their name out there in support of children across an array of issue areas. Champions for Children also have among the highest point totals for children. As a point of comparison, if our scorecard was on a letter grading system, Champions would receive an A+ and Defenders would receive a strong A for their outstanding support of 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, and 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 – just as many other national and state groups do for their legislative scorecards. However, First Focus Campaign for Children (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 2017 Key Votes, see page 7.

- Key Bills: Going a step further, the FFCC Legislative 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 amendment, the FFCC Legislative 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 or harms children. For a list of 2017 Key Bills, see page 9.

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

Congressional Delegations:

The rankings for congressional delegations are based on the combined total of 1) the average points earned by each state’s two senators and 2) the average points earned by each state’s congressional members. Therefore, the Senate members and House member(s) in state delegations each count for half of a state’s total points. An important component of the scorecard includes votes, so for purposes of comparison, we are only able to fairly include full voting members of the House of Representatives. Thus, the non-voting members from the District of Columbia and the territories cannot be fully scored and are not included.
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<th><strong>Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)</strong></th>
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**THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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2017 STATE DELEGATION RANKINGS

TOP RANKED STATES
1. RHODE ISLAND
2. CONNECTICUT
3. NEW MEXICO
4. MASSACHUSETTS
5. OREGON
6. CALIFORNIA
7. MINNESOTA
8. NEW YORK
9. NEW JERSEY
10. HAWAII
11. ILLINOIS
12*. DELAWARE
12*. MAINE
14. NEVADA
15*. NEW HAMPSHIRE
15*. VERMONT
17. MICHIGAN

MIDDLE RANKED STATES
18. WASHINGTON
19. MARYLAND
20. VIRGINIA
21. COLORADO
22. OHIO
23. PENNSYLVANIA
24. FLORIDA
25. WISCONSIN
26. MISSOURI
27. ALASKA
28. INDIANA
29. NORTH DAKOTA
30. ARIZONA
31. WEST VIRGINIA
32. MONTANA
33. IOWA

LOWEST RANKED STATES
34. LOUISIANA
35. TEXAS
36. UTAH
37. NEBRASKA
38. SOUTH CAROLINA
39. ALABAMA
40. MISSISSIPPI
41. ARKANSAS
42. GEORGIA
43. KANSAS
44. SOUTH DAKOTA
45. TENNESSEE
46. IDAHO
47. NORTH CAROLINA
48. OKLAHOMA
49. KENTUCKY
50. WYOMING

*DENOTES STATES THAT ARE TIED IN RANKING
SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 12 - HEALTH POLICY

**FFCC Position:** SUPPORT (Failed 48-50 – 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 - HEALTH POLICY

**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 to 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 54 - EDUCATION POLICY

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

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

SENATE ROLL CALL VOTE 169 - HEALTH POLICY

**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 - HEALTH POLICY/TAX POLICY

**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).
SENNATE ROLL CALL VOTE 179 - HEALTH POLICY
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.

SENNATE ROLL CALL VOTE 295 - TAX POLICY
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.

SENNATE ROLL CALL VOTE 296 - TAX POLICY
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 256 - HEALTH POLICY
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 306 - IMMIGRATION POLICY
FFCC Position: OPPOSE (Passed by a vote of 238-184)

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

HOUSE ROLL CALL VOTE 605 - HEALTH POLICY
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 - HEALTH POLICY
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).
1) 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.

2) 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.

3) 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.

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

**FFCC Position:** SUPPORT

**Lead Sponsors:** Sen. Kirsten 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.
5) S. 434 – HOUSING FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS ACT OF 2017
FFCC Position: SUPPORT
Lead Sponsors: Sens. Al Franken (D-MN) 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.

6) 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.

7) 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.

8) 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.

9) 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.
10) 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.

11) 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.

12) 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.

13) 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 (JJDPA).

14) 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.
15) 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.

16) 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.

17) 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.

18) 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-continuous enrollment under Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and eliminates coverage waiting periods in CHIP.

19) 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 transformation of it into a block grant.

20) S. 1341 – CHILDREN DON’T BELONG ON TOBACCO FARMS ACT

**FFCC Position:** SUPPORT  
**Lead Sponsors:** Sens. Richard Durbin (D-IL), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Kirsten 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.
21) 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 treated in a community placement through a licensed and accredited program.

22) 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.

23) 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.

24) 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.

25) 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.

26) 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.
27) 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.

28) 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.

29) 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.

30) 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.

31) 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.
32) 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.

33) 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.

34) 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.”

35) 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.

36) 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.
37) 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.

38) 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.

39) H.R. 496 – BRIDGE ACT

**FFCC Position:** SUPPORT  
**Lead Sponsors:** Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO), Luis Gutiérrez (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.

40) 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).

41) 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.
42) H.R. 798 – CHILD TAX CREDIT EQUITY FOR PUERTO RICO ACT OF 2017
FFCC Position: SUPPORT
Lead Sponsor: Rep. Jenniffer González-Colón (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.

43) 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.

44) 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.

45) H.R. 1069 – TIMELY MENTAL HEALTH FOR FOSTER YOUTH ACT
FFCC Position: SUPPORT
Lead Sponsors: Reps. Brenda Lawrence (D-MI), Jim 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.

46) 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.
47) 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.

48) 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.

49) H.R. 1345 – PROTECT CHILDREN FROM THEFT ACT OF 2017  
**FFCC Position:** SUPPORT  
**Lead Sponsors:** Reps. Jim 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.

50) H.R. 1511 – HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT  
**FFCC Position:** SUPPORT  
**Lead Sponsors:** Reps. Steve Stivers (R-OH) and Dave Loebsack (D-IA)  

See summary for S. 611.

51) 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.

52) 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.
53) **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.

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

**FFCC Position:** SUPPORT  
**Lead Sponsors:** Rep. Robert 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.

55) **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.

56) **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), Robert Scott (D-VA), Susan Davis (D-CA), and Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

See summary for S. 860.

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

**FFCC Position:** SUPPORT  
**Lead Sponsors:** Reps. Tony Cárdenas (D-CA) and Morgan Griffith (R-VA)

See summary for S. 874.

58) **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.
59) H.R. 2069 – FOSTERING STABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 2017
   **FFCC Position:** SUPPORT
   **Lead Sponsors:** Reps. Michael Turner (R-OH), Daniel Kildee (D-MI), Jim Langevin (D-RI), Tom Marino (R-PA), J. French Hill (R-AK), Gwen Moore (D-WI), and Karen Bass (D-CA)

   See summary for S. 1638.

60) 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 Cárdenas (D-CA), Ted Poe (R-TX), and Ryan Costello (R-PA)

   The bill reauthorizes the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

61) 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), Jim 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.

62) 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.

63) H.R. 2401 – ANTI-LUNCH SHAMING ACT OF 2017
   **FFCC Position:** SUPPORT
   **Lead Sponsors:** Reps. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Robert Scott (D-VA), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), and Ben Ray Luján (D-NM)

   See summary for S. 1064.

64) 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 provide funding to support the obtainment of a driver’s license for foster youth.
65) 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.

66) 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 At-large), 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.

67) 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.

68) 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.

69) 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.

70) 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.
71) 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.

72) 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.

73) 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.

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

**FFCC Position:** SUPPORT

**Lead Sponsors:** Reps. 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.

75) 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.
76) 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.

77) 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.

78) 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.

79) 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.

80) 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.

81) 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.

82) 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.
83) 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.

84) 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.

85) 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), Robert Scott (D-VA), and Susan Davis (D-CA)

See summary for S. 1795.

86) 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), Robert Scott (D-VA), and Susan Davis (D-CA)

See summary of S. 1792.

87) 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).

88) 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 is includes much of the language from S. 1827.
89) 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.

90) 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.