

Recipients: House LDs

Subject: Pass FY 2026 spending bills to keep funding for children on track

First Focus Campaign for Children is pleased to see the FY26 five-bill minibuss separate from full-year funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

As child advocates, we urge lawmakers to pass these remaining bipartisan FY26 annual spending bills this week to avoid another long-lasting partial government shutdown that would prevent critical services from reaching children and their families across the country. [Our analysis shows that three of the remaining FY26 bills—Labor/HHS, Transportation/HUD, and National Security/Department of State —fund 175 programs serving children and families and represent 88 percent of federal discretionary investments in children.](#) This funding should not be delayed.

Congress must be dedicated to significantly rewriting the DHS bill in a way that centers the needs of children and families. [Serious reform must be implemented prior to consideration of full year spending for DHS.](#) Detention and deportation have separated children from parents and caregivers, destabilized households, and left lasting emotional and developmental harm. Children's fear of ICE and CBP actions can lead to anxiety, depression, fear of public systems (including schools, child care, and health care), and other long-term, negative impacts.

The following are reforms that work to center children and protect them from continued harm:

- Protect and expand the Flores Settlement, which establishes based health, safety, and well-being standards for children
- End child and family detention
- Restore sensitive location protections.
- Demand congressional oversight and accountability.
- Guarantee legal and judicial protections for children — and keep families together whenever possible.
- Require adherence to a “best interests” standard when addressing children.

Read our full statements at the links below for more information on how the remaining funding bills impact the health and well-being of all children.

- [Prioritize Children and Families in FY26 Funding Decisions](#)
- [Child advocacy organization says no vote on DHS and offers child centered reforms](#)