

CALL ON THE SENATE TO PRIORITIZE CHILDREN OVER BILLIONAIRES



When you ask parents what they want for their children, the answers most give are often something along the lines of: happiness, a healthy start, nutritious food on the table, to be safe and cared for, and to have a fair opportunity to achieve their full potential. And most of the rest of us want that for children too, even if we do not have children of our own.

Congress is in the process of cutting kids' programs

But today, these basic needs are under threat for millions of children in our country, so leaders in Congress can pay for trillions of dollars in tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy. In May, the House of Representatives passed its version of a bill that would cut healthcare, food stamps and other key supports for our youngest and poorest citizens in order to do just that. Now that bill is being considered on the other side of the Capitol, where Senators will need to decide whether or not to go along with the massive House cuts to Medicaid and SNAP—the largest ever in history.

Medicaid and SNAP are on the chopping block

If enacted, the House bill would cut over \$800 Billion from Medicaid and \$390 Billion from SNAP over 10 years, jeopardizing health care and food for millions of children. The bill's policy changes include removing protections that help children enroll in and maintain health care coverage, adding burdensome red tape for families, and reducing federal funding that supports children's health and nutrition. Kids with special needs or with difficult family circumstances are most susceptible to falling into the bureaucratic maze and losing critical health and nutrition services.

The ripple effects will hurt children too

And it is important to understand that losing Medicaid does not just mean losing health care. Because our social safety net is so interconnected, losing eligibility for one benefit often cascades into losing others.

For instance, eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals is often tied to enrollment in Medicaid or SNAP. Children who are eligible for SNAP are categorically eligible for Head Start, which provides childcare and comprehensive health services for children and families. Likewise, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), which provides vital nutrition to babies and pregnant mothers, is often accessed through referrals that originate from Medicaid providers.

That means a child who misses a Medicaid renewal deadline could lose access to lunch at school, formula at home, and the doctor who tracks their developmental milestones, all at the same time.

ACTION SHEET:

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Among all children at risk, those under five are especially vulnerable. In these early years, nutrition and health care are not optional extras—they are the building blocks of brain development, motor skills, immune system resilience, and emotional regulation.

Research shows that even short-term gaps in food or medical access early in life can result in long-lasting harm, including language delays, behavioral problems, and lower academic achievement. The effects ripple out: a child who misses key vaccinations, asthma care management, or oral health care, is more likely to fall behind in school attendance, and a toddler who experiences chronic hunger may struggle with emotional self-regulation well into adolescence.

Children deserve to be prioritized

History and research have shown us that when we expand access to Medicaid and SNAP, **children's health improves**, school attendance rises, and long-term outcomes—including high school graduation and employment—increase.

Take Action

- Please call both of your **Senators** offices and tell them to reject the House budget reconciliation bill and to protect Medicaid and SNAP from any cuts. Please provide your contact information and ask for a response.
- Or write to both of your **Senators**, pulling from the information above. Tell them about yourself and why you want them to reject the House reconciliation bill and protect Medicaid and SNAP from any cuts.
- And consider posting this **graphic** on social to spread the word.