



May 14, 2026

The Honorable David Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Suozzi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Blake Moore
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Letter of Support for the ***Supporting Newborn Parents Act of 2026***

Dear Representatives Valadao, Suozzi, Moore, and Dingell:

On behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families a greater priority in federal budget and policy decisions, we are pleased to express our strong support for the bipartisan Supporting Newborn Parents Act of 2026.

This legislation represents meaningful, bipartisan progress toward a tax code that reflects what decades of research confirm: the period immediately following a child's birth is one of the most consequential — and most financially precarious — in a family's life. We commend your leadership and the spirit of bipartisan collaboration that this bill embodies.

Welcoming a newborn is when parents need support the most, and yet, the federal government chronically underinvests in infants and toddlers. In FY 2025, only 1.59% of all federal spending went toward supporting children under 3, even though decades of research show this is the period when babies are most sensitive to the effects of financial instability, including hunger, unstable housing, inadequate nutrition, and parental stress. Household income-to-needs declines by more than 30% during pregnancy, childbirth, and through a child's first year of life.

Income drops and expenses surge — with the first year of a child's life costing families upwards of \$17,000. With the costs of groceries, child care, health care, energy, and other essentials continuing to rise, parents need a tax code that supports children and families — not billionaires.

The Supporting Newborn Parents Act addresses this gap in a thoughtful and targeted way. Specifically, First Focus Campaign for Children strongly support the bill because it:

- Creates a standalone tax credit of up to \$2,000 per newborn, separate from and supplementary to the existing Child Tax Credit, providing families with immediate, targeted relief at the most expensive moment in a child's early life;
- Makes the credit available per child, allowing the credit to scale with family size and ensuring that the arrival of a second or third child does not go unsupported;
- Although we continue to strive for a fully refundable credit for all children, the bill allows families to qualify beginning with their first dollar earned, ensuring that working parents at the lowest income levels — those often most in need — are not completely left behind;
- Includes an important lookback provision allowing families to calculate eligibility using either current-year or prior-year income, protecting families experiencing hardship or life changes outside of their control — including childbirth itself — that temporarily reduce earnings;
- Offers flexibility for families to receive the credit as an annual tax refund or as an advance payment shortly after a child is born, putting support in parents' hands precisely when costs are highest; and
- Indexes the credit amount to inflation, ensuring that the value of this support keeps pace with the rising costs that families face.

Together, these features help families manage the costs of welcoming a new baby. In a political environment where finding common ground on family policy has grown increasingly difficult, we thank the four of you for demonstrating that supporting newborns and their families is not a partisan issue — it is a shared American value.

Consequently, First Focus Campaign for Children is proud to stand alongside organizations across the ideological spectrum in supporting this bill. The evidence is overwhelming and clear: making federal investments in the earliest stages of childhood carry extraordinary long-term returns for children, families, and our nation as a whole.

While we continue to strive toward the goal of ensuring that no child is left behind, the Supporting Newborn Parents Act makes meaningful and important progress in that direction. Therefore, we see it as a strong step toward the ultimate goal of universal, adequate support for every child from the moment of birth.

At a moment when the federal budget debate threatens to cut deeply into the programs that children and families depend on, the Supporting Newborn Parents Act offers Congress a rare and welcome opportunity to do something affirmative for children. We urge your colleagues in the House and Senate to recognize this rare bipartisan opportunity and to advance this legislation without delay.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to giving every newborn the strong start they deserve. First Focus Campaign for Children looks forward to working with your offices as this bill advances.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Lesley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and "y".

Bruce Lesley
President