

DANNY K. DAVIS (D-IL), BARBARA LEE (D-CA), GERRY CONNOLLY (D-VA), & SARA JACOBS (D-CA)

CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION ACT OF 2023

Due to strong federal investment—especially the expanded Child Tax Credit—child poverty precipitously dropped by almost half between 2020 and 2021, reducing from 9.7% to 5.2% — the lowest rate on record. Alarming, Census data from September 2023 revealed that the child poverty rate more than doubled between 2021 and 2022 to 12.4% following the expiration of these targeted investments in workers and families.

Approximately 8.9 million children lived in poverty in 2022, with over 1 million children living in deep poverty. Due to our country’s long history of systematic racism, poverty rates for children of color are more than twice that of white children. In 2022, approximately one-fifth of Black children (18.3%), one-third of American Indian/Alaska Native children (29.5%), one-fifth of Latinx children (19.5%), and one-tenth (9.9%) of Asian American Pacific Islander children lived in poverty compared to under one-tenth (7.2%) of white children.

Reducing child poverty is a moral emergency. Poverty exacts tremendous suffering. Child poverty forms massive gaps in cognitive learning, increases risks of hunger and homelessness, and raises the likelihood of living in poverty as an adult. The progress we made in 2021 shows that we can slash child poverty when we have the political will to act. Congress must create an aggressive child poverty reduction target and hold ourselves accountable to restore income supports to strengthen families and cut child poverty.

The Child Poverty Reduction Act commits the nation to halving child poverty in 5 years and implements an accountability framework to ensure we achieve our goal.

Poverty Reduction Target. The bill commits the federal government to cutting child poverty in half within 5 years. The United Kingdom and Canada both used poverty reduction targets to implement critical policies that halved child poverty.

Monitoring and Accountability. The bill charges the Department of Health and Human Services together with the Census Bureau with measuring our progress in meeting the target. Also, it directs the non-partisan National Academy of Sciences to analyze how federal policies contributed to poverty reduction each year.

We must prioritize alleviating child poverty and monitor our success to reverse the 138 percent increase in child poverty between 2021 and 2022. We must examine our success in real-time to inform our policies. If our policies fail to diminish child poverty substantially, we need to do more. If our policies succeed, then we stay the course. Without continuous monitoring of child poverty, we risk irreparable harm to our youngest children, especially children of color.

Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) champions *The Child Poverty Reduction Act* in the Senate.

TO CO-SPONSOR PLEASE CONTACT

Jill Hunter-Williams (Davis)
(202) 225-5006

Jill.Hunter-Williams@mail.house.gov

Gregory Adams (Lee)
(202) 225-2661

Gregory.Adams@mail.house.gov

Collin Davenport (Connolly)
(202) 225-1492

Collin.Davenport@mail.house.gov

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION ACT OF 2023

National Organizations

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Medical Women's Association
Association of Children's Residential & Community Services (ACRC)
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Rights
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
COVID Survivors for Change
Family Centered Treatment Foundation
Family Focused Treatment Association
Family Promise
First Focus Campaign for Children
Healthy Teen Network
HEAR US, Inc.
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Families Learning
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Community Action Partnership
National Network for Youth
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Oxfam America
Parents as Teachers
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Justice Center
SchoolHouse Connection
School Nutrition Association
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Youth Villages
ZERO TO THREE

Arizona

Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children
Child and Family Resources

California

Children Now
County Welfare Directors Association of California
GRACE/End Child Poverty in California

Colorado

Parent Possible

Delaware

Christian Council of Delmarva

Hawaii

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!

Illinois

Brightpoint
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois

Kentucky

Prevent Child Abuse KY

Maryland

RESULTS DC/MD

New York

Children's Aid
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
United Way of New York State
United Way of Westchester and Putnam (New York)

New Jersey

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.

Oregon

Our Children Oregon

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
West Chester Food Cupboard

Puerto Rico

Instituto del Desarrollo de la Juventud

Texas

CHILDREN AT RISK

Washington State

Partners for Our Children

Wisconsin

WISDOM of Wisconsin

Virginia

Voices for Virginia's Children

Child Welfare League of America

“The Child Welfare League of America endorses the Child Poverty Reduction Act legislation, which would create a target for poverty reduction in the United States, leading to equitable and evidence-based solutions for all children and their families,” said **Christine James-Brown, CEO & President of CWLA**. “Strategies that reduce child poverty, strengthen families, prevent family separation, and reduce children’s removal to out-of-home care should be a top priority for our nation, and the recent successes of the expanded Child Tax Credit have shown that this goal is not only critical, but also achievable. We are grateful for Representative Davis and Senator Casey’s leadership on this important effort and applaud their introduction of this bill.”

First Focus Campaign for Children

“Children are our country’s most valuable resource, yet we allowed child poverty to more than double in the U.S. in 2022. This is unacceptable when we know progress is possible. The Child Poverty Reduction Act would set an official goal of cutting child poverty in the U.S. in half within 5 years, creating a mechanism to hold decisionmakers accountable to instituting lasting change. First Focus Campaign for Children thanks Rep. Danny Davis for his continuous leadership, and urges Congressional leaders to pass the Child Poverty Reduction Act without delay.” **Bruce Lesley, President, First Focus Campaign for Children**

National Association of Counties (NACo)

“Counties are innovative leaders in the effort to combat and prevent child poverty,” said **Matthew Chase, executive director of the National Association of Counties (NACo)**. “The Child Reduction Poverty Act will leverage continued research and enhanced coordination to help county governments, along with our intergovernmental partners, make meaningful progress on our work to stabilize vulnerable families, creating a shared national goal of reducing child poverty by 50 percent in five years.”

Prevent Child Abuse America

“Economic security is foundational to the health and well-being of families and children,” said **Melissa Merrick, President and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America**. “When parents have the resources and supports they need, we can alleviate parental stressors and help parents foster positive home environments where children can thrive. The Poverty Reduction Act will help to strengthen families and ensure children have opportunities to be successful.”

Save the Children Action Network

“In light of recent data from the Census Bureau showing that child poverty has doubled in the U.S. in the last year, this legislation is well-timed and important. We know investing in children is investing in our future, and we need the political will to make it happen. Save the Children applauds Representative Davis and Senator Casey for their dedication to combatting child poverty through the introduction of the Child Poverty Reduction Act,” said **SCAN Director of Federal Government Relations, Roy Chrobocinski**. “This legislation will work to ensure that children – regardless of the circumstances they are born into – will have the opportunity not only to survive, but to thrive.”

ZERO TO THREE

Poverty is a defining feature of a baby’s experience, especially for children of color,” said [Miriam Calderón](#), Chief Policy Officer at [ZERO TO THREE](#). “Two million infants and toddlers in America—nearly one in five—currently live in poverty, experiencing material hardship and stress during the time of most rapid brain development. Poverty literally gets under the skin of our babies, with implications for future health and success in school and in life. We applaud Members of Congress for making this bold commitment to cutting poverty in half—a goal that is well within our grasp. We look forward to working with them to ensure all children have the resources to thrive.”