



PENNSYLVANIA
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR CHILDREN
A VOICE FOR KIDS SINCE 1992

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October 22, 2021

Dear Pennsylvania Democratic Congressional Delegation,

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children is the statewide, independent, non-partisan, and non-profit child advocacy organization in the Commonwealth with a vision to ensure every child living in the state can thrive and reach their full potential. Our policy agenda covers the span of perinatal and children's health care, early care and education, child welfare, and K-12 education.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the health and education of children and their families. Pregnant people face uncertainty when seeking medical care. Families are still struggling to access much-needed child care and pre-k programs, many of which remain shuttered. Children continue to miss routine doctor visits, including developmental screenings and recommended immunizations protecting against childhood diseases. More children and families are facing food insecurity than ever before.

As you and your colleagues debate final provisions within the reconciliation bill, we hope you will use this historic opportunity to fund programs that would build better futures for children and their families here at home and across the country.

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children is advocating for the following components in the current House version of the legislation in order to ensure the health and well-being for children and families in the years to come:

- Improvements to children's health care programs, including a permanent extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and required 12 months of continuous eligibility for children enrolled in Medicaid.
- Requiring state Medicaid programs to provide 12 months of continuous eligibility to postpartum women and grant funding for programs that address social determinants of health in maternal and postpartum health.
- Long-term structural investments in the child care system to address accessibility and affordability for low and moderate-income families and increase compensation for early childhood educators.
- Establishing a universal, high-quality pre-kindergarten program to ensure all four- and five-year-old children are adequately prepared for kindergarten.
- Funding to reduce lead in school drinking water and lead-based paint remediation in homes.
- Funding to repair and modernize school buildings and increased funds for Career & Technical Education.

- Some measure of expansion for the Child Tax Credit.
- Some measure of universal paid family and medical leave for U.S. workers.
- Expanding eligibility requirements so that more children can receive free school lunches.

As Congressional leaders continue to negotiate a final bill package, please make your voice heard to your colleagues and conference leadership on the importance of the Build Back Better Act provisions described above.

Thank you for your dedication to children and families in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kari King".

Kari L. King
President and CEO