How Your Members' Votes Affect Children

Key Senate 2009 Children's Votes

Fair Pay for Working Women

S 181. Senate Vote 14: Passed 61-36 on 1/22/2009

Status: Become Public Law 111-2 on 1/29/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. More than three-fourths of mothers of school age children and almost two-thirds of mothers of children under age six work full or part time. This bill helped the millions of children with working mothers by restoring protections from pay discrimination eliminated by the U.S. Supreme Court's 2007 decision in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co.

Children's Health Insurance

HR 2. Senate Vote 31: Passed 66-32 on 1/29/2009

Status: Became Public Law 111-3 on 2/4/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This bill continued the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for five years; extended coverage to four million more uninsured children; offered incentives to states to address barriers to enrollment; ended the five-year waiting period on covering legal immigrant children and pregnant women; and required states for the first time to provide dental benefits under CHIP.

Economic Stimulus

HR 1, Senate Vote 61; Passed 61-37 on 2/10/2009

Status: Became Public Law 111-5 on 2/17/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This bill provided vitally important funding to stimulate the economy and help children and families through state fiscal relief; extensions of unemployment and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) emergency assistance; Medicaid and foster care payments to states; more assistance through the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits; and increased investments in schools, early care and education, public housing and nutrition assistance.

Prohibiting District of Columbia Gun Safety Laws

S 160, Senate Vote 72; Amendment Adopted 62-36 on 2/26/2009

Status: Referred to the House on 3/2/2009

CDF Action Council Position: No. Residents of the District of Columbia are unjustly denied the right to a voting representative in Congress. This amendment would have jeopardized the well-being of children in the nation's capital by repealing several gun safety protections already in place.

National Service Programs

HR 1388, Senate Vote 115; Passed 79-19 on 3/26/2009

Status: Became Public Law 111-13 on 4/21/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This bill tripled the number of volunteers in programs under the Corporation for National and Community Service Programs; increased compensation for full time-service to benefit children and adults in need; and allowed volunteers older than 55 to transfer their education award to a child, foster child or grandchild to help them pay for college.

Fiscal 2010 Budget Resolution

S Con Res 13, Senate Vote 173; Conference Report Adopted 53-43 on 4/29/2009

Status: Senate action sent to House on 4/29/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This Budget Resolution made room for important funding priorities for children and created a reserve fund to allow Congress to move forward health reform legislation and set aside significant funds for home visiting programs.

Deterring Smoking by Children and Teens

HR 1256, Senate Vote 207; Passed 79-17 on 6/11/2009

Status: Became Public Law 111-31 on 6/22/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This bill protected the health of children by helping deter children and teenagers from smoking by better controlling the sale and promotion of tobacco products.



Unemployment Benefits Extension

HR 3548, Senate Vote 334; Passed 98-0 on 11/4/2009

Status: Became Public Law 111-92 on 11/6/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. At a time when over 15 million Americans were unemployed this bill helped children in families suffering from the recession by extending unemployment benefits for individuals who have exhausted state benefits and helped families remain in and purchase homes.

National Health Care Reform

HR 3590, Senate Vote 396: Passed 60-39 on 12/24/2009

Status: Became Public Law 111-148 on 3/23/2010

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This bill represented a major step toward ensuring affordable and comprehensive health coverage for all 32 million people in America including 95 percent of children.

Key House of Representatives 2009 Children's Votes

Fair Pay for Working Women

HR 11, House Vote 9; Passed 247-171 on 1/9/2009

Status: Become Public Law 111-2 on 1/29/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. More than three-fourths of mothers of school age children and almost two-thirds of mothers of children under age six work full or part time. This bill helped the millions of children with working mothers by restoring protections from pay discrimination eliminated by the U.S. Supreme Court's 2007 decision in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co.

Children's Health Insurance

HR 2, House Vote 50; Motion to Concur with Senate amendment, 290-135 on 2/4/2009

Status: Became Public Law 111-3 on 2/4/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This bill continued for five years the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), extended coverage to four million more uninsured children, offered incentives to states to address barriers to enrollment, ended the five-year waiting period on covering legal immigrant children and pregnant women, and required states for the first time to provide dental benefits under CHIP.

Economic Stimulus

HR 1, House Vote 70; Adopted 246-183 on 2/13/2009

Status: Became Public Law 111-5 on 2/17/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This bill provided vitally important funding to stimulate the economy and help children and families through state fiscal relief; extensions of unemployment and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) emergency assistance; Medicaid and foster care payments to states; more assistance through the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit; and increased investments in schools, early care and education, public housing and nutrition assistance.

Protections for Teens from Abuse in Residential Programs

HR 911; House Vote 72; Motion agreed to 295-102 on 2/23/2009

Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 2/24/2009 CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This bill would protect teens in residential programs, including therapeutic boarding schools, boot camps, wilderness camps and others by establishing minimum health and safety standards and requiring parents have the information they need to make safe program choices for their children.

National Service Programs

HR 1388, House Vote 169; Passed 275-149 on 3/31/2009

Status: Became Public Law 111-13 on 4/21/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This bill tripled the number of volunteers in programs under the Corporation for National and Community Service Programs; increased compensation for full time-service to benefit children and adults in need; and allowed volunteers older than 55 to transfer their education award to a child, foster child or grandchild to help them pay for college.

Deterring Smoking by Children and Teens

HR 1256, House Vote 187; Passed 298-112 on 4/2/2009

Status: Became Public Law 111-31 on 6/22/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This bill protected the health of children by helping deter children and teenagers from smoking by better controlling the sale and promotion of tobacco products.

Fiscal 2010 Budget Resolution

S Con Res 13, House Vote 216; Adopted 233-193 on 4/29/2009 Status: Message on Senate action sent to the House on 4/29/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This Budget Resolution made room for important funding priorities for children and created a reserve fund to allow Congress to move forward health reform legislation and set aside significant funds for home visiting programs.

Student Loan Overhaul and Early Learning Challenge Fund

HR 3221, House Vote 719; Passed 253-171 on 9/17/2009

Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 9/22/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This bill would make it easier for youths to get help paying for college and would establish an Early Learning Challenge Fund for young children, a collaborative effort of the Department of Education and Health and Human Services, to help develop innovative high quality models across early learning programs.

Unemployment Benefits Extension

HR 3548, House Vote 722; Motion agreed to 331-83 on 9/22/2009

Status: Became Public Law 111-92 on 11/6/2009

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. At a time when over 15 million Americans were unemployed this bill helped children in families suffering from the recession by extending unemployment benefits for individuals who have exhausted state benefits and helped families remain in and purchase homes.

Affordable Health Care for America Act

HR 3962. House Vote 887: Passed 220-215 on 11/7/2009

Status: Became Public Law 111-192 on 6/25/2010

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This bill moved the nation closer to passage of a national health reform bill although it would have repealed the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2013 and transferred millions of children into new, untested and more expensive State Health Insurance Exchanges. CHIP's repeal was not maintained in the final Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, passed by the House in March 2010.