

# Rep. Steve Cohen

Democrat • Tennessee, 9th District • [cohen.house.gov](http://cohen.house.gov)



## Rep. Cohen's Key Votes for Children

- **voted against [H.R.1628](#)**, the American Health Care Act, which would have repealed Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, repealed the individual and employer health care mandates, and otherwise modified the private health insurance market. This bill, which ultimately failed, would have led to 23 million more Americans without health insurance by 2026.
- **voted against [H.R.1](#)**, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which provided for tax cuts that disproportionately favor wealthy individuals and corporations. The bill is projected to add \$1.5 trillion to the national debt over ten years, which could lead to future cuts to important social safety net programs. The bill also repeals the individual health insurance mandate established under the Affordable Care Act, jeopardizing health insurance coverage for millions of people.
- **voted for and co-sponsored [H.R.1892](#)**, the Bipartisan Budget Act, which extended CHIP for four additional years, funded a home visiting program for new mothers, funded community health centers, and modified funding and eligibility requirements for foster care prevention services.
- **voted against [H.R.1370](#)**, the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, which extended funding for the government by four weeks and retroactively funded CHIP for the first half of fiscal year 2018.
- **voted against [H.R.195](#)**, the HEALTHY KIDS Act, which extended funding for the federal government by three weeks and extended CHIP for six years.
- **voted against [H.J.RES.57](#)**, the resolution that nullified a Department of Education rule providing for federal standards for states implementing plans to meet the needs of historically marginalized groups under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

## NOTE

Bills rated positive appear in **GREEN**, while negative bills appear in **RED**.

## District Snapshot

42.7% live in poverty

66.1% live in households below 185% of the poverty line

20.9% live in households receiving SNAP

25% are facing food insecurity

5.1% lack health insurance

Sources: 2016 Annual Community Survey; US Dept. of Agriculture

## Additional Member Info

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### Committees:

Judiciary

Transportation and Infrastructure

Ethics

## Rep. Cohen's Actions in CDF's Core Policy Areas

### Cohen on Health Care

- **voted against H.R.195**, the HEALTHY KIDS Act, which extended funding for the federal government by three weeks and extended CHIP for six years.
- **voted for H.R.315**, the Improving Access to Maternity Care Act, which would provide for the identification of areas of need with respect to maternity care health professionals.
- **co-sponsored H.R.635**, the CHOICE Act, which would expand access to health care by creating a public health insurance option for sale on the state exchanges.
- **co-sponsored H.R.1307**, the Public Option Deficit Reduction Act, which would establish a public health insurance option to be sold on the health care exchanges.
- **co-sponsored H.R.1318**, the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act, which would create a committee to review maternal and infant mortality and fund demonstration programs to study potential interventions.
- **voted against H.R.1370**, the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, which extended funding for the government by four weeks and retroactively funded CHIP for the first half of fiscal year 2018.
- **voted against H.R.1628**, the American Health Care Act, which would have repealed Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, repealed the individual and employer health care mandates, and otherwise modified the private health insurance market.
- **voted for and co-sponsored H.R.1892**, the Bipartisan Budget Act, which extended CHIP for four additional years, funded a home visiting program for new mothers, funded community health centers, and modified funding and eligibility requirements for foster care prevention services.
- **voted for and co-sponsored H.R.2422**, the Action for Dental Health Act, which would establish a CDC grant program to improve access to dental care for underserved communities.
- **co-sponsored H.R.2745**, the Healthy Maternity and Obstetric Medicine Act, which would provide for special enrollment periods for pregnant women seeking health coverage.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3059**, the Community Health Center and Primary Care Workforce Expansion Act, which would amend the Affordable Care Act to indefinitely extend community health centers and grants for qualified health centers.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3192**, the CHIP Mental Health Parity Act, which would ensure access to mental health services under CHIP.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3258**, the Marketplace Certainty Act, which would increase subsidies for individuals who purchase health insurance on state exchanges.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3311**, the Individual Health Insurance Marketplace Improvement Act, which would provide for the creation of an individual market stabilization reinsurance fund.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3767**, the Ensuring Children's Access to Specialty Care Act, which would include pediatric specialists in National Health Service Corps program.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3770**, the Community Health Investment, Modernization, and Excellence Act, which would reauthorize and extend funding for community health centers.
- **voted against H.R.3922**, the CHAMPIONING HEALTHY KIDS Act, which would extend CHIP and Community Health Centers funding. CHIP and Community Health Centers were eventually funded through a series of budget bills.
- **co-sponsored H.R.4129**, the State Public Option Act, which would establish a state public option through Medicaid.
- **co-sponsored H.R.4541**, the CHAMPION KIDS Act, which would extend funding for a number of health programs, including CHIP and community health centers.
- **co-sponsored H.R.4820**, the ASK Act, which would permanently fund CHIP and provide temporary extensions for community health centers and MIECHV.

- **co-sponsored H.R.5761**, the Ending Maternal Mortality Act, which would require the Department of Health and Human Services to publish every two years a plan for reducing the maternal mortality rate.

### Cohen on Fighting Poverty

- **voted against H.CON.RES.71**, the 2018 congressional budget resolution, which established the budget for fiscal year 2018. This resolution included reconciliation instructions which allowed for the eventual passage of H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, with a simple majority in the Senate.
- **voted against H.R.1**, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which provided for tax cuts that disproportionately favor wealthy individuals and corporations. The bill is projected to add \$1.5 trillion to the national debt over ten years, which could lead to future cuts to important social safety net programs. The bill also repeals the individual health insurance mandate established under the Affordable Care Act, jeopardizing health insurance coverage for millions of people.
- **co-sponsored H.R.15**, the Raise the Wage Act, which would increase the minimum wage to fifteen dollars an hour over a period of seven years.
- **co-sponsored H.R.821**, the Child Tax Credit Improvement Act, which would increase the Child Tax Credit from \$1,000 per child to \$3,600 per child for children under the age of 6.
- **co-sponsored H.R.1000**, the Jobs for All Act, which would provide for grants to support employment opportunities and workforce investment programs.
- **co-sponsored H.R.1748**, the Opening Doors for Youth Act, which would provide at-risk and disconnected youth with subsidized summer and year-round employment and assist local community partnerships in improving high school graduation and youth employment rates.
- **co-sponsored H.R.2633**, the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit Enhancement Act, which would raise the income level at which the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit phases out, increase the value of the credit, index the credit to inflation, and make the credit fully refundable.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3336**, the Employ Young Americans Now Act, which would establish a fund to subsidize summer and year-round employment opportunities for low-income youth.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3757**, the GAIN Act, which would increase the value of the Earned Income Tax Credit for every group including individuals with no children.

### Cohen on Child Welfare

- **co-sponsored H.R.2290**, the Family-Based Care Services Act, which would provide funding for therapeutic family care services in Medicaid. Such programs provide parents, caregivers, or foster families with training necessary to care for children with mental illness, emotional or behavioral disorders, or other conditions.
- **co-sponsored H.R.2640**, the Every Child Deserves a Family Act, which would prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in adoption and the foster care system.
- **voted against H.R.2824**, the Increasing Opportunity and Success for Children and Parents through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act, which would reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program for five years, and require grantees to match federal funds beginning in fiscal year 2020. MIECHV was eventually reauthorized through H.R.1892, the Bipartisan Budget Act, without a state matching requirement.
- **voted for H.R.2847**, the Improving Services for Older Youth in Foster Care Act, which would authorize states to extend foster care eligibility up to age 21 and to increase age limits on other programs for youths who have aged out of foster care.
- **voted for H.R.2866**, the Reducing Unnecessary Barriers for Relative Foster Parents Act, which would require the Department of Health and Human Services to identify model standards for the licensing of foster family homes and to evaluate state plans against those standards.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3410**, the SIMARRA Act, which would establish a pilot program to allow incarcerated women and children born during incarceration to reside together in a separate prison housing unit.

## Cohen on PreK-12 Education

- **voted against [H.J.RES.57](#)**, the resolution that nullified a Department of Education rule providing for federal standards for states implementing plans to meet the needs of historically marginalized groups under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.
- **co-sponsored [H.R.647](#)**, the Transition-to-Success Mentoring Act, which would provide for grants for school-based mentoring programs to help at-risk middle school students transition into high school.
- **co-sponsored [H.R.2475](#)**, the Rebuild America's Schools Act, which would provide funds for improvements to public school facilities.
- **co-sponsored [H.R.2902](#)**, the IDEA Full Funding Act, which would fully fund part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- **co-sponsored [H.R.4049](#)**, the Equal Access to Quality Education Act, which would provide grants to increase the flow of quality teachers into high-need schools.
- **voted for [H.R.4909](#)**, the STOP School Violence Act, which would reauthorize a grant program for school security to train local law enforcement, school personnel, and students and to develop an anonymous reporting system for violent threats at school.
- **co-sponsored [H.R.5374](#)**, the Student Non-Discrimination Act, which would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity of a student or a person associated with that student in any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

## Cohen on Juvenile Justice

- **co-sponsored [H.R.1809](#)**, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, which would reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, reduce the placement of youth in adult jails pre-trial, provide for reduction in racial and ethnic disparities, and incentivize states to end detention of youth with status offenses. The bill would also promote alternatives to incarceration.
- **co-sponsored [H.R.1885](#)**, the Prohibiting Detention of Youth Status Offenders Act, which would eliminate the use of valid court orders to secure lockup of status offenders.
- **co-sponsored [H.R.2435](#)**, the Justice Safety Valve Act, which would amend the criminal code to allow judges discretion to impose sentences below the statutory minimum.
- **co-sponsored [H.R.2899](#)**, the Second Chance Reauthorization Act, which would revise and reauthorize grant programs regarding offender reentry, substance abuse treatment, and education. The bill would also repeal some diversion programs for drug offenders.
- **co-sponsored [H.R.3252](#)**, the Second Chance for Students Act, which would make federal student aid available to students convicted of marijuana offenses while completing a drug rehabilitation program.
- **co-sponsored [H.R.3800](#)**, the Mandatory Minimum Reform Act, which would eliminate mandatory minimum sentences for all drug offenses.
- **co-sponsored [H.R.3811](#)**, the National Center for the Right to Counsel Act, which would establish the National Center for the Right to Counsel.

## Cohen on Gun Reform

- **voted against [H.R.38](#)**, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, which would allow individuals licensed for concealed carry in one state to possess or carry a concealed weapon in another state that allows individuals to carry concealed firearms.
- **co-sponsored [H.R.445](#)**, the Buyback Our Safety Act, which would authorize gun buyback grant programs for state and local law enforcement agencies.
- **co-sponsored [H.R.1475](#)**, the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act, which would expand criminal penalties for trafficking in firearms.
- **co-sponsored [H.R.1478](#)**, the Gun Violence Research Act, which would permit the Department of Health and Human Services to sponsor research on gun violence.

- **co-sponsored H.R.1612**, the Gun Show Loophole Closing Act, which would require criminal background checks on all firearms transactions at gun shows.
- **co-sponsored H.R.1708**, the Firearm Risk Protection Act, which would prevent the sale or purchase of a firearm by an individual without appropriate liability coverage insurance.
- **co-sponsored H.R.2380**, the Handgun Trigger Safety Act, which would provide for development and implementation of technology to limit use of handguns to authorized users.
- **co-sponsored H.R.2598**, the Gun Violence Restraining Order Act, which would allow family members of an individual who they believe to be a danger to himself or others to seek a gun violence prevention order, which would allow for the temporary seizure of said individual's firearms.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3361**, the SECURE Firearm Storage Act, which would require federally licensed firearms importers, manufacturers, and dealers to meet certain requirements with respect to securing their inventory, business records, and business premises.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3464**, the Background Check Completion Act, which would prohibit the sale of firearms prior to the completion of a background check.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3613**, the Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback Act, which would authorize grants for states, local governments, or gun dealers to conduct gun buyback programs.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3947**, the Automatic Gunfire Prevention Act, which would prohibit the sale of bump stocks and other mechanisms to increase the rate of fire of a semiautomatic rifle.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3962**, the Stop Online Ammunition Sales Act, which would require face to face sales of ammunition, licensing of ammunition dealers, and reporting about bulk ammunition purchases.
- **co-sponsored H.R.4186**, the Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act, which would prevent domestic abusers subject to a protective court order from purchasing or possessing guns.
- **co-sponsored H.R.4268**, the Gun Safety: Not Sorry Act, which would provide for a seven-day waiting period before a semiautomatic firearm, silencer, armor piercing ammunition, or a high-capacity magazine may be transferred.
- **co-sponsored H.R.4344**, the End Purchase of Firearms by Dangerous Individuals Act, which would incentivize state-level reporting by mental health professionals of individuals deemed dangerous for the purpose of prohibiting gun sales to such individuals.
- **co-sponsored H.R.4573**, the Gun Violence Research Act, which would allow for federal funds to be used for research on mental health, gun violence, and how they intersect, and provide for reporting on the effects of gun violence.
- **co-sponsored H.R.5087**, the Assault Weapons Ban, which would prohibit the possession, sale, manufacture, importation, or transfer of a semiautomatic weapon or large capacity ammunition feeding device.
- **co-sponsored H.R.5103**, the Gun Violence Prevention and Safe Communities Act, which would increase excise taxes on firearms and ammunition and use the proceeds to fund grants for public safety programs and research on gun violence.
- **co-sponsored H.R.5163**, the Keeping Guns from High-Risk Individuals Act, which would prohibit firearm ownership by certain high-risk individuals including those recently convicted of a violent crime.
- **co-sponsored H.R.5383**, the Ammunition Background Check Act, which would extend background check requirements to the transfer of ammunition at gun shows or over the internet.

### Cohen on Nutrition

- **voted against H.R.2**, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act, which would cut SNAP benefits by \$20 billion over ten years through more stringent work requirements and elimination of other programs; the bill would also create additional barriers to receiving SNAP benefits.

- **co-sponsored H.R.1276**, the Closing the Meal Gap Act, which would increase the minimum SNAP benefit and exempt individuals from work requirements if they have not been offered a position in a federal jobs or job training program.
- **sponsored H.R.2289**, the Supermarket Tax Credit for Underserved Areas Act, which would provide tax incentives for supermarkets that serve underserved areas.
- **co-sponsored H.R.2401**, the Anti-Lunch Shaming Act, which would prohibit public identification or stigmatization of children who lack funds to pay for a meal or have outstanding credit.
- **co-sponsored H.R.2684**, the SNAP Work Opportunities Act, which would exempt individuals from SNAP work requirements if they are not offered a position in a state job training or workfare program.
- **co-sponsored H.R.4855**, the SNAP Healthy Incentives Act, which would provide financial incentives for SNAP participants to purchase fruits and vegetables.

### **Cohen on Early Childhood**

- **voted against H.R.695**, the Child Protection Improvements Act, which would establish a background check system for individuals who care for children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities.
- **co-sponsored H.R.1022**, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act, which would provide 6 weeks of paid parental leave to Federal employees.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3773**, the Child Care for Working Families Act, which would expand and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant and provide grants for funding high-quality preschool.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3842**, the Healthy Start Reauthorization Act, which would reauthorize the Healthy Start for Infants Program, which directs resources to areas with high infant mortality rates.

### **Cohen on Housing**

- **co-sponsored H.R.3160**, the Public Housing Tenant Protection and Reinvestment Act, which would require that one unit of public housing be brought on line for every unit demolished or otherwise disposed of.
- **co-sponsored H.R.3215**, the Public Housing Capital Repair Fund Act, which would authorize grants to public housing agencies for capital repairs.
- **sponsored H.R.3575**, the Housing Accountability Act, which would provide standards for the physical condition and management of housing receiving federal subsidies under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937.