

# Sen. Dick Durbin

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## Sen. Durbin'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- **voted against [H.R.1628](#)**, the American Health Care Act, which would have repealed Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, repealed the individual and employer health care mandates, and otherwise modified the private health insurance market.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 [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 the [confirmation of Betsy DeVos](#)** as Secretary of Education, which CDF opposed due to concerns about DeVos's experience and her demonstrated opposition to robust enforcement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Title IX.
- **voted against the [confirmation of Jeff Sessions](#)** as Attorney General, which CDF opposed due to concerns about Sessions's poor record on civil rights and criminal justice.
- **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

19.5% live in poverty

27% live in households below 185% of the poverty line

13.3% live in households receiving SNAP

17.3% are facing food insecurity

2.4% lack health insurance

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

## Additional Member Info

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### Committees:

Appropriations

Judiciary

Rules and Administration

## Sen. Durbin's Actions in CDF's Core Policy Areas

### Durbin on Health Care

- **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 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.
- **co-sponsored S.194**, the CHOICE Act, which would provide for a public health insurance option.
- **co-sponsored S.337**, the FAMILY Act, which would establish the Office of Paid Family and Medical Leave and entitle individuals to a family and medical leave insurance payment for extended caregiving periods.
- **co-sponsored S.428**, the ACE Kids Act, which would authorize states to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through enhanced pediatric health homes.
- **co-sponsored S.2708**, the Choose Medicare Act, which would create a public health care option through Medicare that would be available for purchase on the health care exchanges.

### Durbin 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.
- **sponsored S.983**, the Helping to Encourage Real Opportunities (HERO) for At-Risk Youth Act, which would modify the work opportunity tax credit to include at-risk youth and increase the amount of the credit for youth employees.
- **co-sponsored S.1242**, the Raise the Wage Act, which would increase the minimum wage to fifteen dollars an hour over a period of seven years.
- **co-sponsored S.1371**, the Working Families Tax Relief Act, which would increase the amount of the child tax credit and the portion of the credit that is refundable.

### Durbin on Child Welfare

- **co-sponsored S.774**, the Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act, which would create a task force to report on best practices for trauma-informed care and modify a number of grant programs to incorporate trauma-informed care.

### Durbin 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.
- **voted against the confirmation of Betsy DeVos** as Secretary of Education, which CDF opposed due to concerns about DeVos's experience and her demonstrated opposition to robust enforcement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Title IX.

- **co-sponsored S.1370**, the Mental Health in Schools Act, which would expand grants and other programs relating to children and violence to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.
- **sponsored S.1658**, the Mentoring to Succeed Act, which would authorize school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk students in middle school and high school in developing cognitive and social-emotional skills to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce.
- **co-sponsored S.1674**, the School Building Improvement Act, which would provide grants for the repair, renovation, and construction of public elementary schools and secondary schools.
- **co-sponsored S.2572**, the Safe Schools Improvement Act, which would require local educational agencies to establish anti-bullying policies and prohibit bullying based on race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion.
- **co-sponsored S.2584**, 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.

### **Durbin on Juvenile Justice**

- **voted against** the **confirmation of Jeff Sessions** as Attorney General, which CDF opposed due to concerns about Sessions's poor record on civil rights and criminal justice.
- **co-sponsored S.329**, the MERCY Act, which would restrict the use of solitary confinement for juveniles in federal custody.
- **co-sponsored S.860**, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act, which would reauthorize the JJDP Act and provide for incentive grants for local delinquency prevention programs.
- **co-sponsored S.1917**, the National Criminal Justice Commission Act, which would reform sentencing laws and corrections and include provisions on parole for juveniles, sealing of juvenile records, and juvenile solitary confinement.
- **co-sponsored S.2423**, the REAL Act, which would reinstate Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated individuals.

### **Durbin on Gun Reform**

- **co-sponsored S.1945**, the Keep Americans Safe Act, which would regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices.
- **co-sponsored S.2009**, the Background Check Expansion Act, which would require background checks for every firearm sale.
- **co-sponsored S.2044**, 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 S.2095**, the Assault Weapons Ban, which would criminalize the sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of a semiautomatic assault weapon or large capacity ammunition feeding device.

### **Durbin on Nutrition**

- We couldn't find any action this member has taken on Nutrition. To learn more visit [www.durbin.senate.gov](http://www.durbin.senate.gov) or call this member's office at 202-224-2152.

### **Durbin on Early Childhood**

- **co-sponsored S.1690**, the CCAMPIS Reauthorization Act, which would reauthorize a program that provides campus-based child care for parents in college.
- **co-sponsored S.1806**, 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.

### **Durbin on Housing**

- We couldn't find any action this member has taken on Housing. To learn more visit [www.durbin.senate.gov](http://www.durbin.senate.gov) or call this member's office at 202-224-2152.