

# Rep. Brian Higgins

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## Rep. Higgins'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- **voted against [H.R.1628](#)**, the American Health Care Act, which would have repealed Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, repealed the individual and employer health care mandates, and otherwise modified the private health insurance market.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 [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

29.5% live in poverty

43.2% live in households below 185% of the poverty line

26.7% live in households receiving SNAP

23.1% are facing food insecurity

1.2% lack health insurance

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

## Additional Member Info

Phone: 202-225-3306

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### Committees:

Budget

Ways and Means

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

### Higgins 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.
- **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.
- **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.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.3325**, the ACE Kids Act, which would amend Medicaid to provide states with the option of providing coordinated care for children with complex medical conditions through a health home.
- **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.4541**, the CHAMPION KIDS Act, which would extend funding for a number of health programs, including CHIP and community health centers.

### Higgins 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.

### Higgins on Child Welfare

- **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.3525**, the Home Visiting Works Act, which would reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program for 5 years without a state-matching provision. MIECHV was eventually reauthorized for five years without a state matching requirement as a part of H.R.1892, the Bipartisan Budget Act.

### Higgins 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.1120**, the Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act, which would promote delivery of high quality special education and related services to students with visual disabilities or who are deaf or hard of hearing or deaf-blind.
- **co-sponsored H.R.2902**, the IDEA Full Funding Act, which would fully fund part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- **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.

### Higgins on Juvenile Justice

- **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.

### Higgins 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.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.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.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.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.

#### **Higgins 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.

#### **Higgins 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.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.

#### **Higgins on Housing**

- We couldn't find any action this member has taken on Housing. To learn more visit [higgins.house.gov](http://higgins.house.gov) or call this member's office at 202-225-3306.