

# Rep. Joseph Kennedy

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## Rep. Kennedy'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- **voted against [H.R.1628](#)**, the American Health Care Act, which would have repealed Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, repealed the individual and employer health care mandates, and otherwise modified the private health insurance market.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 against [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.
- **did not vote on [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

7.2% live in poverty

12.4% live in households below 185% of the poverty line

7.6% live in households receiving SNAP

11.5% are facing food insecurity

0.7% lack health insurance

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

## Additional Member Info

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

### Kennedy 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.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.
- **did not vote on 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 against 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.
- **did not vote on 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.2628**, the Stabilize Medicaid and CHIP Coverage Act, which would stabilize health coverage for children whose eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP fluctuates along with their family income.
- **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.3767**, the Ensuring Children's Access to Specialty Care Act, which would include pediatric specialists in National Health Service Corps program.
- **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.
- **sponsored H.R.4778**, the Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act, which would strengthen funding parity for mental health and substance abuse disorders.

### Kennedy 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.

### **Kennedy 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.
- **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.
- **did not vote on 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.
- **did not vote on 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.4998**, the Health Insurance for Former Foster Youth Act, which would amend the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for former foster youth.

### **Kennedy 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.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.
- **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.

### **Kennedy on Juvenile Justice**

- **co-sponsored H.R.968**, the Equal Justice Under Law Act, which would enforce the Sixth Amendment right to the assistance of effective counsel at all stages of the adversarial process.

### **Kennedy on Gun Reform**

- **did not vote on 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.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.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.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.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.

### **Kennedy 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.
- **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.

### **Kennedy on Early Childhood**

- **did not vote on** but **co-sponsored 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.

### **Kennedy on Housing**

- We couldn't find any action this member has taken on Housing. To learn more visit [kennedy.house.gov](http://kennedy.house.gov) or call this member's office at 202-225-5931.