

# Sen. Jeff Merkley

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- **voted against [H.R.1628](#)**, the American Health Care Act, which would have repealed Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, repealed the individual and employer health care mandates, and otherwise modified the private health insurance market.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

20.4% live in poverty

28.9% live in households below 185% of the poverty line

18.8% live in households receiving SNAP

22.5% are facing food insecurity

3.3% lack health insurance

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

## Additional Member Info

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### Committees:

Appropriations

Budget

Environment and Public Works

Foreign Relations

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

### Merkley 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 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.
- **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.1804**, the Medicare for All Act, which would establish a universal Medicare program.
- **co-sponsored S.2001**, the State Public Option Act, which would establish a public health care option through Medicaid.
- **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.

### Merkley 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 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.

### Merkley on Child Welfare

- We couldn't find any action this member has taken on Child Welfare. To learn more visit [www.merkley.senate.gov](http://www.merkley.senate.gov) or call this member's office at 202-224-3753.

### Merkley 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.1421**, the Patsy T. Mink Gender Equity in Education Act, which would require the Department of Education to establish a new office to ensure compliance with anti-sex-discrimination laws.
- **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.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.

### **Merkley 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.1127**, the Justice Safety Valve Act, which would amend the criminal code to allow judges discretion to imposes sentences below the statutory minimum.
- **co-sponsored S.2423**, the REAL Act, which would reinstate Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated individuals.

### **Merkley 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.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.

### **Merkley on Nutrition**

- We couldn't find any action this member has taken on Nutrition. To learn more visit [www.merkley.senate.gov](http://www.merkley.senate.gov) or call this member's office at 202-224-3753.

### **Merkley 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.

### **Merkley on Housing**

- **co-sponsored S.548**, the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act, which would increases state credit allocations and make several adjustments to the low-income housing tax credit.