

# Sen. Bernie Sanders

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- **voted against [H.R.1628](#)**, the American Health Care Act, which would have repealed Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, repealed the individual and employer health care mandates, and otherwise modified the private health insurance market.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

15.1% live in poverty

25% live in households below 185% of the poverty line

13.6% live in households receiving SNAP

15.7% are facing food insecurity

1.6% lack health insurance

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

## Additional Member Info

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### Committees:

Budget

Energy and Natural Resources

Environment and Public Works

Health, Education, Labor, and

Pensions

Veterans' Affairs

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

### Sanders 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.
- **sponsored S.1441**, the Community Health Center and Primary Care Workforce Expansion Act, which would extend funding for community health centers for ten years.
- **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.
- **co-sponsored S.2529**, the Advancing Youth Enrollment Act, which would increase health care subsidies for younger adults to improve participation rates on the state health care exchanges.

### Sanders 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.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.
- **sponsored S.1590**, the Employ Young Americans Now Act, which would create the Employ Young Americans Fund to pay for summer and year-round employment opportunities for low-income youth.

### Sanders on Child Welfare

- **co-sponsored S.1303**, 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.

### Sanders 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.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.

### **Sanders 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.2423**, the REAL Act, which would reinstate Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated individuals.

### **Sanders 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.

### **Sanders on Nutrition**

- **co-sponsored S.2477**, the SNAP Work Opportunities and Veteran Protection Act, which would exempt SNAP recipients from the program's work requirements if they aren't first offered a position in a state job training or workfare program.
- **co-sponsored S.2723**, the SNAP for Kids Act, which would increase SNAP benefits for children by changing the method by which benefits are calculated.

### **Sanders on Early Childhood**

- **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.

### **Sanders on Housing**

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