

# Key Senate 2007 Children's Votes

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## 1. Increase the Minimum Wage

Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2000, Passage, H.R. 2, as amended  
Passed 94-3 (R 45-3, D 47-0, I 2-0) on February 1, 2007. Enacted in P.L. 110-28.

**Vote Description:** This bill raised the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour over two years, the first increase in the minimum wage in 10 years.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** This bill passed into law a long overdue increase in pay for minimum wage workers. A vote for this bill was a vote to help struggling low-income families with children.

## 2. Increase Funding for Education for Children with Disabilities

Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, S. Con. Res. 21,  
S. Amdt. 545 – Special Education  
Rejected 38-58 (R 0-47, D 36-11, I 2-0) on March 22, 2007.

**Vote Description:** The amendment would have restored the top marginal tax rate on taxable income in excess of \$1 million to pre-2001 levels and used the additional revenue to increase funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** Adoption of the amendment would have provided a large increase for needed funding to help ensure a free appropriate education for children with disabilities. It would be funded by taxing the richest Americans.

## 3. Protect Children from Unsafe Medications

Food and Drug Administration Revitalization Act, S. 1082  
Passed 93-1 (R 44-0, D 48-0, I 1-1) on May 9, 2007.

**Vote Description:** This bill would revise and extend Food and Drug Administration (FDA) programs to ensure the safety of prescription drugs and medical devices and expand the FDA's ability to review the safety of prescription drugs and track problems after they have been approved and marketed.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** This legislation would help protect children from unsafe medications. It includes critical provisions that would greatly increase the amount and quality of information doctors need to safely prescribe medication to children. It also provides incentives to drug companies that conduct responsible testing to determine prescription drug safety and dosage requirements, since children react to medications very differently than adults.

## 4. 2008 Budget Resolution

Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, S. Con. Res. 21, Conference Report  
Agreed to 52-40 (R 2-40, D 48-0, I 2-0) on May 17, 2007.

**Vote Description:** The Conference Report on the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution allowed up to \$954.1 billion in discretionary spending, plus \$145.2 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It reinstated pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules in the Senate and set up a mechanism in the House to block tax cuts if the projected surplus in fiscal year 2012 does not materialize.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** The Budget Resolution included important funding priorities for children, including up to \$50 billion in additional funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). It also rejected many of the cuts the President had proposed for the 2008 budget, including cuts in other important health and education programs.

## 5. Extend Health Coverage to 3.2 Million More Uninsured Children

Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, H.R. 976  
Passed 68-31 (R 18-31, D 48-0, I 2-0) on August 2, 2007.

**Vote Description:** The bill would reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for five years and increase federal funding for child health coverage through SCHIP and Medicaid by nearly \$35 billion over five years. The cost of the expansion would be funded by a 61 cent per pack federal cigarette tax increase.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** This legislation would extend health coverage to more than one-third (3.2 million) of the more than nine million uninsured children in America. It includes new funding and policy improvements needed by states to enroll and provide health coverage to millions of children who are currently eligible but not enrolled in SCHIP and Medicaid.

## 6. Help Youth Pay for College

College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, H.R. 2669, Conference Report  
Agreed to 79-12 (R 34-12, D 43-0, I 2-0) on September 7, 2007. Enacted as P.L. 110-084.

**Vote Description:** This Conference Report redirected federal funding from student loan firms to aid for students and college graduates. It also increased Pell grant awards and improved debt forgiveness provisions for certain public-sector workers.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** A yes vote on this Conference Report was a vote for children because it would increase opportunities for youth to go to college, especially youth from lower-income families.

## 7. Extend Health Coverage to 3.1 Million More Uninsured Children

Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, H.R. 976, Motion to Concur with House Amendments  
Passed 67-29 (R 18-29, D 47-0, I 2-0) on September 27, 2007.  
Vetoed by President Bush on October 3, 2007.

**Vote Description:** The Senate voted a second time on this legislation because the House made changes when it passed the bill. The bill would reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for five years and increase federal funding for child health coverage through SCHIP and Medicaid by nearly \$35 billion over five years. It would be funded by a 61 cent per pack federal cigarette tax increase.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** This bill would extend health coverage to one-third (3.1 million) of the more than nine million uninsured children in America. It includes new funding and policy improvements needed by states to enroll and provide health coverage to millions of children who are currently eligible but not enrolled in SCHIP and Medicaid.

## 8. Support Education for Children of Immigrants

DREAM Act/Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, S. 2205,  
Cloture on the Motion to Proceed  
Rejected 52-44 (R 12-36, D 38-8, I 2-0) on October 24, 2007.

**Vote Description:** The Senate rejected a motion to allow a vote on a bill that would have permitted children of illegal immigrants who entered the United States before age 16 and who have lived here at least five years to gain conditional legal status and eventual citizenship if they graduate from high school and attend college or join the military for at least two years.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** The Senate denied many children of immigrants the opportunity for college, the military and citizenship when it refused to even allow a vote on this important bill.

## 9. Fund Child Health and Education

Departments of Labor, HHS, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008, H.R. 3043, Motion to Recede and Concur

Passed 56-37 (R 10-36, D 44-1, I 2-0) on November 7, 2007.

Vetoed by President Bush on November 13, 2007.

**Vote Description:** This bill would provide \$150.7 billion in fiscal year 2008 for specific programs in the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** This bill would have helped children by providing some funding increases for key health, mental health, education and job training programs and rejecting cuts proposed by the President in other important programs for children.

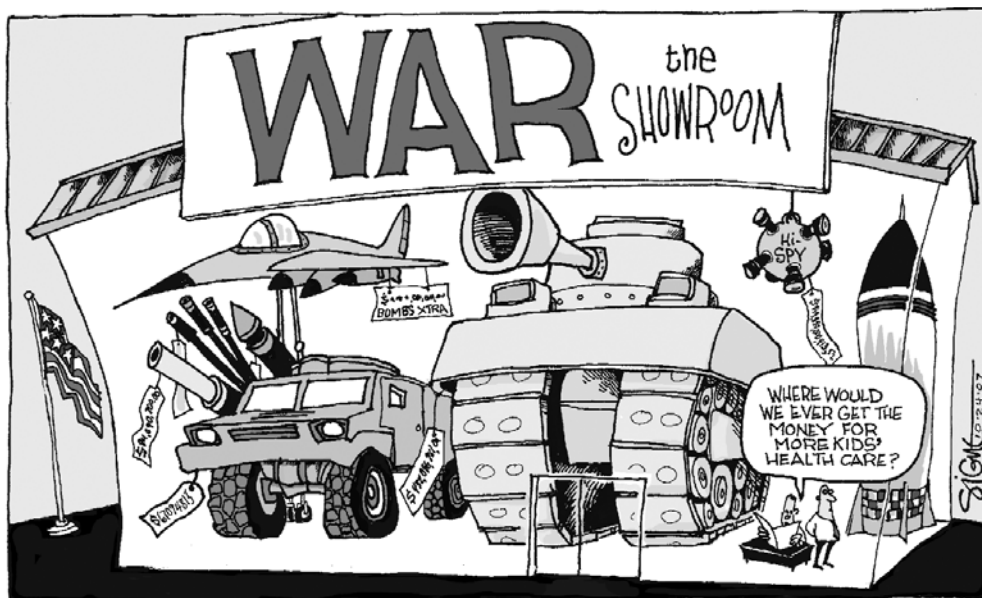
## 10. Give Children a Head Start

Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act, H.R. 1429, Conference Report

Agreed to 95-0 (R 48-0, D 45-0, I 2-0) on November 14, 2007. Enacted as P.L. No. 110-134.

**Vote Description:** This Conference Report expanded access to Head Start for more children, prioritized expansion of the Early Head Start Program, and made other improvements for the youngest children in the program. It also required quality improvements, including new associate and bachelor degree requirements for teachers and increased annual in-service training, and improved coordination between Head Start and other programs for young children.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** A vote for the improvements in Head Start, which has successfully served children for more than four decades, was a vote to help children get ready for school.



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**Where would we ever get the money for more kids' health care?**

# Key House of Representatives 2007 Children's Votes

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## 1. Support Pay-As-You-Go Rules for Taxes and Spending

Adoption of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 110th Congress, Title IV, PAYGO Rules Passed 280-152 (R 48-152, D 232-0) on January 5, 2007. Adopted as House Rule.

**Vote Description:** This resolution set House rules for the 110th Congress. The title includes pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules, which require that any new tax cuts or additional funding for programs that entitle eligible individuals to certain benefits or services, such as Medicaid and the federal Foster Care Program, be paid for by reductions in spending or tax increases. It also requires Members of Congress to provide information about the recipient and purpose of federal funding earmarked for specific purposes.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** It is unjust to approve tax cuts that are not paid for and that add billions of dollars to our children's debt burden.

## 2. Increase the Minimum Wage

Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2000, H.R. 2

Passed 315-116 (R 82-116, D 233-0) on January 10, 2007. Enacted in P.L. 110-28.

**Vote Description:** This bill raised the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour over two years, the first increase in the minimum wage in 10 years.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** This bill passed into law a long overdue increase in pay for minimum wage workers. A vote for this bill was a vote to help struggling low-income families with children.

## 3. 2008 Budget Resolution

Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, S. Con. Res. 21, Conference Report Agreed to 214-209 (R 0-196, D 214-13) on May 17, 2007.

**Vote Description:** The Conference Report on the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution allowed up to \$954.1 billion in discretionary spending, plus \$145.2 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It reinstated pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules in the Senate and set up a mechanism in the House to block tax cuts if the projected surplus in fiscal year 2012 does not materialize.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** The Budget Resolution included important funding priorities for children, including up to \$50 billion in additional funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). It also rejected many of the cuts the President had proposed for the 2008 budget, including cuts in other important health and education programs for children.

## 4. Protect Children from Unsafe Medications

Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act, H.R. 2900

Passed 403-16 (R 187-6, D 216-10) on July 11, 2007.

**Vote Description:** This bill would revise and extend Food and Drug Administration (FDA) programs to ensure the safety of prescription drugs and medical devices and expand the FDA's ability to review the safety of prescription drugs and track problems after they have been approved and marketed.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** This legislation would help protect children from unsafe medication. It includes critical provisions that would greatly increase the amount and quality of information doctors need to safely prescribe medication to children. It also would provide incentives to drug companies to conduct responsible testing to determine prescription drug safety and dosage requirements, since children react to medications very differently than adults.

## 5. Extend Health Coverage to 4.1 Million More Uninsured Children

Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act, H.R. 3162  
Passed 225-204 (R 5-194, D 220-10) on August 1, 2007.

**Vote Description:** The Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act (CHAMP Act) would have reauthorized SCHIP for five years and increased federal funding for child health coverage through SCHIP and Medicaid by nearly \$50 billion over five years. The CHAMP Act would be funded by a 41 cent per pack federal cigarette tax increase and reductions in overpayments to private Medicare plans.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** The CHAMP Act was the strongest child health coverage legislation passed by the House in 2007 and would have extended health coverage to 4.1 million of the more than nine million uninsured children in America. The CHAMP Act included critical new funding and policy improvements needed by states to enroll and provide health coverage to millions of children who are currently eligible but not enrolled in SCHIP or Medicaid.

## 6. Help Youth Pay for College

College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, H.R. 2669, Conference Report  
Agreed to 292-97 (R 77-97, D 215-0) on September 7, 2007. Enacted as P.L. 110-084.

**Vote Description:** This Conference Report redirected federal funding from student loan firms to aid for students and college graduates. It also increased Pell grant awards and improved debt forgiveness provisions for certain public-sector workers.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** A yes vote on this Conference Report was a vote for children because it increased opportunities for youth to go to college, especially youth from lower-income families.

## 7. Extend Health Coverage to 3.1 Million More Uninsured Children

Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, H.R. 976, Motion to Concur with Senate  
Passed 265-159 (R 45-151, D 220-8) on September 25, 2007.  
Vetoed by President Bush on October 3, 2007.

**Vote Description:** The bill would reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for five years and increase federal funding for child health coverage through SCHIP and Medicaid by nearly \$35 billion over five years. It would be funded by a 61 cent per pack federal cigarette tax increase.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** This bill would extend health coverage to one-third (3.1 million) of the more than nine million uninsured children in America. It includes funding and policy improvements needed by states to enroll and provide health coverage to millions of children who are currently eligible but not enrolled in SCHIP or Medicaid.

## 8. Fund Child Health and Education

Departments of Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008, H.R. 3043, Motion to Concur

Passed 274-141 (R 51-141, D 223-0) on November 8, 2007.

Vetoed by President Bush on November 13, 2007.

**Vote Description:** This bill would provide \$150.7 billion in fiscal year 2008 for specific programs in the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** This bill would have helped children by providing some funding increases for key health, mental health, education, and job training programs and rejecting cuts proposed by the President in other important programs for children.

## 9. Support Tax Relief for Low-Income Families with Children

Temporary Tax Relief Act, H.R. 3996

Passed 216-193 (R 0-185, D 216-8) on November 9, 2007.

**Vote Description:** This bill would exempt more than 20 million taxpayers from having to pay the alternative minimum tax on income from 2007. It would also expand eligibility in 2008 for the refundable child tax credit.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** This bill would expand the child tax credit to low-income families, increasing the incomes of the families with children who are struggling the most to make ends meet. A vote for the bill was a vote for children.

## 10. Give Children a Head Start

Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act, H.R. 142, Conference Report

Agreed to 381-36 (R 154-36, D 227-0) on November 14, 2007. Enacted as P.L. No. 110-134.

**Vote Description:** This Conference Report expanded access to Head Start for more children, prioritized expansion of the Early Head Start Program, and made other improvements for the youngest children in the program. It also required quality improvements, including new associate and bachelor degree requirements for teachers and increased annual in-service training, and improved coordination between Head Start and other programs for young children.

**CDF Action Council Position: Yes.** A vote for the improvements in Head Start, which has successfully served children for more than four decades, was a vote to help children get ready for school.