



Investments can help end child and family poverty:

The recent Census Bureau report shows how key investments can help end child and family poverty. We must provide jobs and decent wages and support investments in child and family basic needs. In 2017 millions of children were lifted above the poverty line by the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other refundable credits (4.5 million), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (1.5 million), the National School Lunch Program (722,000), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) (156,000), housing subsidies (897,000), the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program (472,000), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and general assistance (296,000).

We can and must provide enough for our young who have too little... instead of padding the pockets of millionaires and billionaires who have far more than their fair share of public welfare. No child in our nation should live in poverty. Shielding children from the lifelong consequences of poverty will improve child lives now and reduce future child poverty. We have all the resources and know-how to end child poverty. We cannot wait. Our children's and nation's future depend on our acting right now.

Adapted from a Child Watch column by Marian Wright Edelman, President of the Children's Defense Fund.

For more information and opportunities to act, visit www.childrensdefense.org



2018 National Observance of Children's Sabbaths

“Realizing Dr. King’s Vision for *Every Child: Lives of Hope, Not Despair*”

END CHILD POVERTY

“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.”

President Franklin Roosevelt, in his second inaugural address in 1937, spoke to a nation crawling out of the Great Depression. President Roosevelt knew our great nation was capable of even more progress. His words above were preceded by this: *“[H]ere is the challenge to our democracy: In this nation I see tens of millions of its citizens—a substantial part of its whole population—who at this very moment are denied the greater part of what the very lowest standards of today call the necessities of life. I see millions of families trying to live on incomes so meager that the pall of family disaster hangs over them day by day. I see millions whose daily lives in city and on farm continue under conditions labeled indecent by a so-called polite society half a century ago. I see millions denied education, recreation, and the opportunity to better their lot and the lot of their children. ...It is not in despair that I paint you that picture. I paint it for you in hope—because the Nation, seeing and understanding the injustice in it, proposes to paint it out. We are determined to make every American citizen the subject of his country’s interest and concern; and we will never regard any faithful law-abiding group within our borders as superfluous.”*





**We are facing another test of our moral progress today—
and we are failing.**

U.S. Census Bureau figures for 2017 released in September show:

- Nearly 1 in 5 children in America still lives in poverty making them the poorest age group in our country.
- Almost one-third of the 39.7 million poor people in the United States are children.
- While child poverty in 2017 was slightly lower than in 2016, the number of poor children – 12.8 million – remains indecently high.
- Although unemployment numbers continue to fall, these gains have not kept families and children out of poverty. More than 70 percent of poor children come from working families who often face low wages.

**Our very wealthy nation leaves
nearly 1 in 5 of our children in poverty—
a morally and practically unacceptable choice
and economically costly decision.**

More than 1 in 5 children under six are poor in 20 states and the District of Columbia. That our *youngest* children are the poorest group of children during their years of greatest brain development is a shameful indictment of our values and our common sense. We have the *capacity* to invest in our vulnerable young; our nation has chosen not to.



**How shockingly unwise, immoral and costly it is
that, as 12.8 million children in poverty are struggling,
the Trump Administration and Republican controlled
Congress propose to throw money at non-needy
millionaires and billionaires over babies.**

In 2017 the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act gave massive tax cuts to billionaires, millionaires and powerful corporations at the expense of the majority of taxpayers and children at a cost of \$1.9 trillion over the next 11 years. To fill this huge deficit hole, the Trump Administration and Republican leaders in Congress have threatened cuts to critical investments in child health, nutrition, housing and education. The House Republicans newly introduced “Tax Plan 2.0” would again reward the wealthy and continue to increase already indefensible inequality.... Has our nation completely lost all sense of decency and justice?

**Babies’ survival needs should trump billionaires’ and
millionaires’ greed.** Our children’s present and future lives are too valuable to let these profoundly unjust practices continue. This new Tax Plan 2.0 and any additional cuts to key survival programs must be rejected. And every single person in America needs to speak out and join the campaign to end child poverty now.

How will we test our progress today?

Will our President continue to ignore the 12.8 million poor children and their families? How many Congressional leaders will stand up for those who have too little – or will they join the frenzied Republican leadership attempts to give more permanent tax breaks to those who have too much?