



The Children's Protection Act

Introduced by Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley

Trauma experienced in childhood can have profound and pervasive impacts on individuals and society, both stemming from and exacerbated by the intersecting crises our nation faces today. The coronavirus pandemic caused major disruption to children's lives, exposing them to unprecedented levels of illness, isolation, homelessness, and financial insecurity. White supremacy, police brutality, mass incarceration, and deportation continue to impact the health and wellbeing of children, especially Black, brown, Indigenous, and immigrant youth. Longstanding issues connected to environmental justice and the climate crisis continue to impact and displace communities, undermining the health, safety, and security of children. Children are also still suffering the impacts of the Trump Administration, which issued rules that increased food insecurity, allowed toxic environmental exposure, contributed to climate instability, and rolled back civil rights.

The federal government can make an important contribution to addressing these issues by centering children's interests in the regulatory process. Currently, federal agencies are not required to analyze or disclose the impact of regulatory changes on children, and they rarely provide evidence that their policies do no harm to America's youth. **The Children's Protection Act would ensure that our regulatory process prioritizes the health and wellbeing of America's children by mandating that agencies analyze and publicly disclose the impact of proposed, applicable rules on children.**

Specifically, for rules that could adversely impact at least 500 children, the bill would require an initial and final regulatory children's analysis that includes:

- Estimates of how many children could be directly or indirectly impacted, including demographic information and how they could be harmed;
- Reasonably foreseeable projected increases in negative health or educational outcomes; and
- Alternatives that could accomplish the same objectives while minimizing negative impacts or providing greater benefits to children.

These analyses would be conducted by review panels with expertise in children's health and education and experience in advocating for the health and welfare of all children.

The federal government must always act in service to the American people with the mission of meeting the unique needs of each generation, especially those of children who are counting on policymakers to act in their best interest. The Children's Protection Act takes important steps toward this goal by ensuring that the wellbeing of children is a foundational consideration of all agency action.

Current Endorsements: Children's Environmental Health Network, The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), First Focus on Children, Futures Without Violence, Hunger Free America, Children's Defense Fund, the Poverty & Race Research Action Council (PRRAC) and Public Citizen.