

The Children's Protection Act

Introduced by Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley

Since the beginning of Donald Trump's presidency, his administration has demonstrated a reckless disregard for the impact of its regulatory rulemaking on children. From rollbacks of consumer protection and social safety net programs to disastrous environment and education rules, these regulatory changes have far-reaching and dangerous implications for the health and prosperity of the next generation of Americans.

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. Without such requirements in place, the Trump Administration has proposed and promulgated rules that undermine the health and safety of children by increasing food insecurity, toxic environmental exposure, climate instability, civil rights rollbacks, and more.

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 their rules' impact on children.

Specifically, for rules that could harm the health of 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 legislation also would codify an important transparency provision in Executive Order 12866 that requires public access to documents and comments exchanged during the rulemaking process.

The federal government must always act in service to the American people with the mission of meeting the unique needs of each generation, and especially those of the 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.

Endorsements:

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); Child Welfare League of America; Children's Defense Fund; Children's Environmental Health Network; Community Change Action; First Focus Campaign for Children; Friends Committee on National Legislation; MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger; Milken Institute School of Public Health Center for Community Resilience and Sumner M. Redstone Center for Prevention and Wellness; MomsRising; NETWORK Lobby for Catholic School Justice; Public Citizen; Share Our Strength