



**MOMS TO CONGRESS:**  
**Don't let this administration**  
**erase our kids' future!**

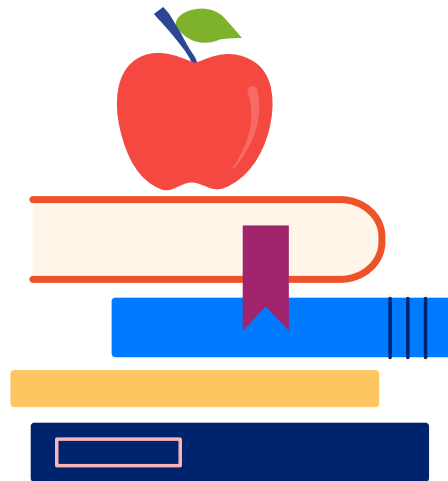
**Support strong public schools, healthy**  
**families, and local communities**



MomsRising's 1.2 million members, including thousands of members in every state, are deeply alarmed by the Trump administration's slashing of healthcare, including damaging cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) – that are negatively impacting millions of people, as well as alarmed by their deep cuts to SNAP and slashing of critical education funding. These cuts are putting all children, rural schools, special education services, mental health supports, and more at risk.

Moms across the nation ask lawmakers to consider the grave consequences of these deeply cutting budget decisions on students, families, and rural communities. We are calling on every member of Congress to reverse the damaging cuts and to double down on their commitment to America's families by investing in our nation's schools and healthcare programs. Investment in high-quality education strengthens our economy and gives children the tools they need to thrive.

When every child needs access to healthcare, and over 90% of U.S. students attend public schools (that's 50 million children); the stakes could not be higher.



## MOMS' PRIORITIES ARE CLEAR

### Protect Public Education. Don't Undermine It

#### » Public dollars go to public schools:

We need to prepare children for the real world by ensuring every student gains strong reading, writing, and arithmetic skills. When taxpayer money is funneled into private schools through policies like voucher programs, it drains much-needed resources from public schools. This forces closures of even high-quality public schools and especially jeopardizes schools in rural communities. When rural schools lose resources, communities lose anchors.

"I have two children, and they have special needs. One is autistic, one is ADHD, one has a 504 plan, one has an IEP, so I am reaching out to let you know, please say no. Don't let them take away the Department of Education."

– Toni O, CA-15

» **Allow children to learn and thrive:** Increase the number of public school teachers and reduce classroom size. We need more teachers and smaller classrooms. Federal budget cuts mean states are faced with larger class sizes and fewer staff to support learning, making it harder for our kids to be prepared for the real world. Faced with massive federal funding cuts, 50% of superintendents reported they would have to lay off teachers and personnel, including those who work with English language learners, special education students, or struggling students, as well as school counseling and wellness programs, just when kids are facing historic levels of anxiety and depression. We all want our kids to get the full attention they deserve in the classroom - and that requires an investment in our school personnel.

## Protect Vital Healthcare & Nutrition Access for All Kids

» **Fully restore Medicaid and Affordable Care Act (ACA) funding:** Medicaid is the fourth-largest federal funding source for schools and supports services. It provides vital services that every child needs to thrive. Deep cuts to Medicaid will limit critically important healthcare access, close rural hospitals, raise health insurance costs for everyone, and shrink access to school-based health services like nursing, special education resources, medical equipment, transportation, mental health services, and speech, physical, and occupational therapies for 30 million students.



**"I was a teacher for 11 years and an elementary school principal for 25 years. I cannot imagine how we could have helped as many children as we did without Title I funding and without extra hands in the classroom to help those children with special needs. If we want a strong America tomorrow, we need to provide support to teachers and children today."**

**– Mary P, OH-10**

» **Strengthen school meal programs:** Hungry kids cannot learn. School meals are a local lifeline, especially in rural communities where access to food can be limited. Providing free and reduced-price school meals to students improves their academic performance, attendance, and behavior, and reduces hunger.

» Fully restore SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding, to ensure that children have access to

**healthy nutritions:** SNAP is the cornerstone of America's nutrition assistance program with a long history of bipartisan support, allowing families to better afford the high price of groceries. Children in households receiving SNAP are categorically eligible for free school meals; this cuts down on burdensome paperwork and ensures low-income children get the nutrition they need to grow up healthy. Recent federal cuts to SNAP could lead to tens of thousands of students losing free school meals.



## Open Avenues for Kids to Thrive

» **Open avenues for students with disabilities to succeed:** Ensuring students with disabilities receive the services they are legally entitled to is also a shared priority across party lines. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) should ensure that every student with a disability has access to free, appropriate public education. However, this is an unfunded government mandate. Deep Medicaid cuts will further undermine protections and services for over 7 million children in an already underfunded critically important program. On the 50th anniversary of IDEA being signed into law, now is the time for Congress to fulfill its duty to students with disabilities.

**"I have two children, and they have special needs. One is autistic, one is ADHD, one has a 504 plan, one has an IEP, so I am reaching out to let you know, please say no. Don't let them take away the Department of Education."**

- Holly H, CA-04



"As a retired public school teacher who spent 36 years teaching in our very diverse, urban school district, I couldn't be prouder of our efforts and success stories! However, I am fearful about the future! Every time funds are siphoned off for private charter schools, many of which have no testing requirements, or requirements to accept students with learning disabilities, etc, the funding of our public schools is reduced. Teachers are increasingly disrespected, poorly paid, threatened by lax security policies, and burdened by policies of book banning, etc. by some of our state officials. I truly worry that our teacher shortage will be magnified, as fewer people will choose this career, and current folks will leave the field due to all these stressors! I would never have wanted to do anything else with my life, but I am hard pressed to encourage any young person to enter the career now. We need: 1. Adequate funding for student services and faculty salaries. 2. Respect for the professionalism of educators and the concept of academic freedom. Educators know way more than elected officials about curriculum and how to communicate information to our students. 3. Increased funding and staff for student mental health. The corrosive effects of divisiveness, racism, sexism, and anti-LGBTQ+ bullying, as well as the social "aloneness" caused by the pandemic, have destabilized too many of our children. 4. Universal Pre-K education and parenting classes. Recent research indicates that most of a child's intellectual capacity is developed in the first 3 years. Even college-educated parents are not always aware of the kinds of stimulation that can maximize the social and intellectual development of their children."

– Kathleen D, FL-26



» **Critical thinking skills are necessary for the success of our**

**future workforce:** Parents want their children to grow up respectful, resilient, and ready for the real world. That means learning history, developing empathy, and thinking critically. Book bans and curriculum restrictions erase the full history of our nation, including the stories of LGBTQ+ families, students of color, religious minorities, and other marginalized communities. They limit learning and stoke fear. Our kids deserve to know the history of our diverse nation; it makes us all stronger and better.



» **Schools need to be safe and secure:** The

Trump administration's removal of protection of schools and childcare centers from ICE enforcement is terrifying for both immigrant and non-immigrant children at schools, undermining the safe environment that is necessary for learning. Students are reporting record levels of anxiety tied to ICE presence at school. Our kids should be focused on studying for the next test, not concerned about government agents uprooting their lives or the lives of their friends in the classroom.

Medicaid provides care to seventy-two million people, and education builds our nation's future. Still, extreme cuts were made to Medicaid to pay for separating families, human rights abuses, and terrifying students and hardworking immigrants – people essential to our care workforce, our economy, and our future. Our nation needs a safe and orderly immigration process that balances compassion and security, NOT cuts to healthcare and education, and NOT cruelty.

**"I have a kindergartener and a 9-month-old who attends and will eventually attend a Title 1 school. Cutting the DE would negatively impact their education because their campus is able to attract quality educators with the funding they get – who would like to teach elsewhere if they were not offered special Title 1 teacher programs and pay. Her school also has the largest special education population in our district, and those children would lose their necessary services to get equal access to quality education."**

**– Kortney M, TX-17**

## » Remove Barriers to Higher

**Education Access:** College needs to be affordable for all students, including those in rural areas and from working-class families. Student loan protections and inclusive admissions policies are being dismantled, making college less affordable and limiting opportunities for our kids to access the education they need to thrive and grow our economy. Broad access to higher education ensures access to the American dream, where, regardless of your background, our kids can work to accomplish their goals. We urge Congress to enshrine American values into law.

— “Yes, I currently have student loan debt. Student loan debt is the biggest debt that I have. After years of struggling as a single parent, then going through a divorce, there were several years that I could not pay toward this debt. As a result, I will probably be paying this debt after I retire, which is very disheartening. \$50,000 would free up resources to go towards my family’s household expenses and possibly create a way to save for my son’s college expenses.” —

— Holly H, CA-04

**Tax dollars should reflect our values, supporting education, healthcare, nutrition access, and opportunity for all children, not lining the pockets of the wealthiest few.**

**We want Congress to exert its authority to use our hard-earned tax dollars by prioritizing our children’s education, healthcare, nutrition, public schools, our economy, and our futures.**



MomsRising is an on-the-ground and online grassroots movement of more than a million people who are working to increase family economic security, stop discrimination, and build a nation where businesses and families can thrive.

Established in 2006, MomsRising and its members are organizing and speaking out to improve public policy and to change the national dialogue on issues that are critically important to America's families, including criminal justice reform, immigration policy reform, and gun safety. MomsRising is working for paid family and medical leave, affordable, high-quality childcare and early learning, and for an end to the wage and hiring discrimination which penalizes women — particularly moms and women of color — and so many others.

MomsRising advocates for access to healthy food for all kids, health care for all, earned sick days, and breastfeeding rights so that all children can have a healthy start.

MomsRising maintains a Spanish language website: [www.MamásConPoder.org](http://www.MamásConPoder.org). Sign up online at [www.MomsRising.org](http://www.MomsRising.org) — and follow us on our blog, and on Twitter and Facebook.