

Protecting Early Childhood Education in the Federal Budget Reconciliation Process

June 2025

The U.S. House of Representatives recently advanced a budget resolution that threatens deep cuts to crucial safety net programs that support early childhood educators, children, and families. As Congress moves through the budget reconciliation process, it is critical that we work together to emphasize the critical importance of investing in early childhood education and protecting these essential programs.

Here are just a few of the important programs the budget calls for massive cuts to:

- **Health care educators rely on.** The proposed bill cuts close to \$700 billion from Medicaid, which provides health insurance for nearly 28% of early childhood educators nationwide, as well as 42% of children under 6.
- **Food assistance for families and educators.** The proposed bill cuts close to \$300 billion from SNAP, which provides food assistance for low-income individuals and families, including 16% of the ECE workforce.
- **Programs that help educators access higher education.** The proposed bill cuts \$330 billion from higher education, including Pell grants, federal student loans, and other programs early childhood educators depend on to further their education.

The bill causes additional harm by shifting additional financial burdens to states, threatening their own investments in early childhood education and the ECE workforce.

Additional Resources

- **NAEYC's Statement on the House Reconciliation Bill:** Gain insights into NAEYC's position on the passed budget bill and its implications for early childhood education. [Read the Statement.](#)

- **Reconciliation Resource:** Read more about the reconciliation process, including what it is and why it matters. [Read more.](#)
- **Protecting Medicaid: NAEYC's Brief on Medicaid as an Essential Support for Early Childhood Educators:** Explore how Medicaid is a vital lifeline not only for families and children—but also for the early childhood educators who care for them. [Read the Blog](#)

We Need Your Help!

Your advocacy is vital in ensuring that early childhood education remains a priority in federal budget decisions. By taking action—whether through contacting your representatives, sharing your story, or utilizing available resources—you can make a significant impact. Together, we can protect and strengthen the programs that support our children, families, and educators.

Here are ways you can take action during budget reconciliation:

Connect With Your Members of Congress

Your voice matters. Reach out to your elected officials to express the importance of protecting and investing in early childhood education. Here's how:

Send a message to your elected officials: NAEYC's Action Center makes it easy to contact your members of Congress. We already have drafted a message so all you need to do is add your name, email, and address, and it will send the message to your representative! Once you have sent your message, share the link to encourage others in your network to participate in this action.

Action Alert: [Tell Congress: Don't Make Cuts that Hurt Kids](#)

Set up a meeting with your elected officials

It is important to build relationships with your elected officials and a great way to do that is to meet with them in person or virtually! Schedule a meeting with your

representatives to discuss the impact of proposed budget cuts on early childhood education.

Follow these steps to master meetings with policymakers, including learning how to request a meeting, make the most of it, and follow up afterward.

Resource: [Mastering Meetings with Policymakers](#)

Use these talking points on Medicaid

- In my state, [x% of early childhood educators](#) rely on Medicaid for health insurance.
- Stripping access to Medicaid would further destabilize the ECE workforce by increasing [early educator burnout](#) and worsening already critical workforce shortages.
- Most states rely on Medicaid to finance early intervention services. Without Medicaid, fewer children with disabilities would have access to the services that help them thrive.
- Federal Medicaid dollars make up a large portion of state budgets. Large cuts to Medicaid would threaten states' own investments in ECE and force them to make cuts to critical services families rely on.

Share Your Story with NAEYC

Your experiences are invaluable in advocating for change. By sharing your story, you contribute to a collective voice that can influence policy decisions. NAEYC is collecting stories to highlight the real-world impact of proposed budget cuts.

[Submit Your Story](#)

Sample Socials

Your voice matters—especially online. Sharing advocacy posts on social media raises awareness, spreads key resources, and helps build momentum for real change. Use our action alert to make your voice heard and don't forget to use hashtags like [#DontCutKids](#), [#FundECE](#), and [#ProtectEarlyEd](#) to amplify the message!



[Action Alert link] <https://www.votervoice.net/NAEYC/Campaigns/121909/Respond>

- Take action with @NAEYC by sending a message to your members of Congress to protect and invest in early childhood education, early childhood educators, and all families with young children.

Take action: [LINK]

- Congress is considering a budget that would cut essential programs like Medicaid, SNAP, and Pell Grants. These are lifelines for early childhood educators and the families they serve.

Take action now: [LINK]

- Early childhood educators and the families they serve need access to health care, food, and education to thrive. Congress is considering legislation that threatens all of that.

Tell Congress: Don't make cuts that hurt kids.

[LINK]