



Children's Advocacy ALLIANCE

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Final Tax Bill Threatens the Health and Financial Security of Nevada Children and Families

(Las Vegas) -- Statement by Denise Tanata, Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Alliance on Conference Agreement for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

"The final tax bill released late Friday threatens our children's health and well-being, raises taxes on many families, and weakens our state's preparation for a 21st century economy. Nevada's delegation should all vote against it.

"The bill adds \$1.5 trillion dollars to our national debt over 10 years, which will drain the resources we need to invest in our children in order to ensure they are prepared to become productive adults in a 21st century economy.

"Moreover, Congress has already passed a plan to use this deficit to force cuts to basic needs programs like Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), the Earned Income Tax Credit, and other programs essential for children's well-being. This will devastate our children's ability to become members of a productive skilled workforce. Children who participate in Medicaid, SNAP and the Earned Income Tax Credit have all been shown to be healthier, do better in school, be more likely to graduate from high school, and work more and earn more as adults.

"The tax bill will also increase the number of uninsured families in our state and raise premiums for those who have insurance, because it repeals the individual health insurance mandate. By one estimate, in Nevada insurance premiums will rise by an average of \$1,730 for a family of four and 112,000 more Nevada residents will be uninsured by 2025¹. The mandate leads families to explore their insurance options. When they do so, most low- income families discover they are eligible for Medicaid or marketplace financial assistance, and end up covered at little or no cost.

"By reducing the number of children with health insurance this bill will make children sicker. Children who have health insurance coverage are healthier and have fewer preventable hospitalizations. They are more likely to receive preventive medical and dental care, be screened for developmental milestones, obtain needed timely treatment, and miss fewer days of school.

"In addition, many families at all income levels will actually see their taxes rise as a result of this bill. In 2019, in our state, of the families making less than \$64,880, 44,540 will actually pay a tax increase and

¹ Center for American Progress,

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/11/16/442906/senate-tax-bill-threatens-access-health-care/>



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43,170 will see no change in their taxes. By 2027, of taxpayers making less than \$96,810, 35 percent will have a tax increase; that's 379,650 taxpayers²."

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About the Children's Advocacy Alliance

The Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) is a community-based nonprofit organization that advocates for policy changes that benefit Nevada's children and families by researching and utilizing current data and promoting evidence-based policies to ensure that every child has a chance to thrive. CAA engages the community by bringing people together to address challenges and opportunities around children's issues in order to leverage that collective strength toward improving the systems that support the well-being of Nevada's children. For more information, visit www.caanv.org.

² Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, December 2017 <https://itep.org/finalgop-trumpbill-nv/>