

U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



FIGHTING *for* PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

The Child Poverty Reduction Act of 2021

Why do we need the Child Poverty Reduction Act of 2021?

Almost [one in seven kids](#) in the United States live in poverty. The United States has consistently [ranked near the bottom](#) of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries in child poverty rates. This is unacceptable for the richest country in the world. Children living in poverty are at greater risk of behavioral and emotional problems and child poverty has been shown to adversely affect academic outcomes of children, especially during early childhood. Setting a target for a government to reach when trying to reduce child poverty has proven to be effective in other OECD countries, such as [Canada](#) and the [United Kingdom](#).

It is past time that the United States set a target to reduce child poverty to attack the problem. This target will be critical in sustaining and improving upon any progress made through larger changes on how to tackle child poverty.

What would the Child Poverty Reduction Act of 2021 do?

The Child Poverty Reduction Act of 2021 will ensure that we continue to build the political will and have the research necessary to make progress on child poverty reduction beyond emergency relief efforts. Specifically, the bill would;

- Codify a national child poverty target of cutting child poverty in half in ten years and task the National Academy of Sciences to analyze and monitor progress towards this goal;
- Require the U.S. Census Bureau to develop an anchored Supplemental Poverty Measure to use to annually track progress on child poverty that includes data on children in the U.S. territories;
- Direct the National Academy of Sciences to establish a Child Poverty Reduction Strategy Clearinghouse;
- Mandate the National Academy of Sciences to update A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty within three years; and
- Direct the National Academy of Sciences to publish a new consensus study on policies to reduce long-term, intergenerational child poverty.

Supporters: Over 160 organizations including American Academy of Pediatrics, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), Families USA, First Focus Campaign for Children and the Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

Cosponsors: Senators Baldwin and Brown