

Support for the *Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act*:

“We believe the Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act of 2019 builds on the latest research evidence on the profound impacts of high opportunity areas on low-income children's economic mobility; we support the research-informed approaches outlined in the bill and believe it puts forward important resources and policies for improving children’s long-term outcomes,” **said Raj Chetty, Opportunity Insights at Harvard University.**

“America’s lowest income citizens lack access to both financial and social capital. The good policy of housing vouchers closes this gap by opening the door to neighborhoods filled with healthy families, engaged citizens, and economic opportunity,” **said Jay Hein, President of Sagamore Institute.**

“The Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act of 2019 takes a significant step toward changing the face of poverty in the United States. This will reduce homelessness and evictions, keep families together, free up dollars to be spent on different life necessities, and increase opportunity for success,” **said Matthew Desmond, author of ‘Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City’.**

“The Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act will expand assistance targeted to families urgently in need and prove that poverty is a cycle that can be broken,” **said Jessica Love, Executive Director of Prosperity Indiana.** “Our network enthusiastically supports this bill and applauds Senator Young for his leadership in working to ensure housing unstable families and children in our state and across the country have more equitable opportunities to thrive in all facets of life.”

“The National Education Association (NEA) applauds Senators Young and Van Hollen for introducing the Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act of 2019, which will offer crucial assistance to struggling families with school-age children,” **said Lily Eskelsen García, NEA President.** “This bill will help keep students on track, ensure that they can attend school regularly, and provide the opportunity for an education that sparks students’ curiosity and motivates them to learn. We must do everything we can to end homelessness and make sure *all* students have the learning resources and tools they deserve. This is a step in the right direction.”

“The Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act introduced by Senators Young and Van Hollen will give hundreds of thousands of children a better chance of long-term success by helping their families afford housing in neighborhoods with quality schools and other opportunities that promote healthy child development and improved outcomes as adults,” **said Robert Greenstein, President of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.** “This legislation is important to giving many children in low-income families a better start in life.”

“Low-income children facing housing instability and growing up in neighborhoods of extreme poverty are more likely to struggle in school, more likely to experience adverse health

outcomes, and less likely to climb the income ladder as adults,” said **Mike Koprowski, National Director of the *Opportunity Starts at Home* campaign**. “Research clearly shows that Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers can dramatically improve the life trajectories of low-income children by expanding access to stable, affordable housing located in safe, well-resourced communities. This legislation contains one of the most research-based and cost-effective policy tools available to the federal government to dramatically improve upward mobility for the next generation.”

“At Habitat for Humanity, we believe all families deserve safe, decent and affordable housing and should have tools to achieve strength, stability, and self-reliance,” said **Chris Vincent, Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy at Habitat for Humanity International**. “The Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act is a great example of a bipartisan policy that will help families afford the cost of home and move out of poverty. Through our Cost of Home campaign, we are supporting a broad spectrum of strategic housing issues to address home affordability. We strongly support this legislation because it will help many lower-income families access stable affordable homes in neighborhoods with opportunities to move up the economic ladder and improve their kids’ futures.”

“This bill will allow families with low-wage or unsteady jobs to be able to stay in a modest apartment rather than struggling to avoid homelessness,” said **Nan Roman, President and CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness**. “We are grateful to Senators Young and Van Hollen for their vision and compassion. Children in these families will benefit for their whole lives.”

“Our nation is in the grips of an affordable rental housing crisis, forcing three out of every four of America’s lowest-income families to make impossible tradeoffs between paying rent and putting groceries on the table or meeting their other basic needs. Because of longstanding housing segregation, discrimination, racism and other factors, when families do receive assistance, they often have few choices about where to live – impacting everything from health outcomes, educational attainment and income,” said **Diane Yentel, President and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition**. “I applaud Senators Todd Young and Chris Van Hollen for introducing the Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act of 2019 to provide 500,000 of America’s lowest-income families with young children the breadth of opportunities that start with affordable homes in safe, thriving communities with access to good schools, jobs, healthcare, and transit.”

“Early childhood is a critical window of brain and body development. Our Children’s HealthWatch research and my experience as a pediatrician show a stable home early in life is the foundation for good health,” said **Dr. Megan Sandel, pediatrician and Co-Lead Principal Investigator for Children’s HealthWatch**. “Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers give children and families a fair shot at healthy development during this important period and will have a positive impact on health for generations to come.”

“Housing instability is one of the biggest barriers to individual economic prosperity. Too many families are struggling and their children are missing basic needs because rent is too high,” **said National League of Cities (NLC) President Joe Buscaino, councilmember, Los Angeles.** “NLC applauds Senators Chris Van Hollen and Todd Young for the bipartisan Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act. Innovative and data-driven proposals like this will help make local leaders part of the solution to housing instability and homelessness. It has become clear that housing stability at an early age leads to better outcomes for health, job security, and economic mobility for our nation’s residents. The housing policy choices we make today will have a generational impact on America’s cities, towns, and villages – we must commit to creating that affordable housing future together.”

“We commend Senators Van Hollen and Young for this crucial bipartisan legislation to provide more options for safe and secure housing during this time when the affordable housing stock is decreasing and families of every racial and ethnic minority are struggling,” **said Hilary O. Shelton, Director of the NAACP Washington Bureau and the Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy.** “We look forward to working with this bipartisan coalition of U. S. Senators to make this vision a reality.”

“Finding affordable and stable housing is intrinsically linked to a family’s ability to meet all its basic needs, including putting food on the table,” **said Jim Weill, President of the Food Research & Action Center.** “The Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act represents good public policy with positive ripple effects. Not only does the Act work to house low-income families with young children in neighborhoods with strong schools, better job prospects, and community assets like healthy food retail outlets, but it safeguards families from the multiple harms to nutrition, health and well-being emanating from homelessness, unaffordable housing and housing instability.”

“The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) applauds and fully supports Senators Chris Van Hollen and Todd Young in their bipartisan introduction of the Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act that would create 500,000 new housing vouchers,” **said Dr. Angelo McClain, CEO of the National Association of Social Workers.** “As the nation’s largest professional social work organization, we are well aware of the fact that the most important support service for low-income families is safe and affordable housing. Therefore, we welcome this legislation that will significantly increase the availability of housing vouchers and help to end the cycle of homelessness low-income families with young children too often experience. The bill will also give these families access to neighborhoods where there are better opportunities – communities with stronger schools, better job prospects, and more readily available services to meet their basic bio-psychosocial needs. NASW stands with the *Opportunity Starts at Home* campaign in supporting the Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act and will offer our resources to help with its passage.”

“It is exciting to see a bipartisan effort to significantly expand the Housing Choice Voucher program through the Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act, and I applaud Senators Van Hollen and Young for this leadership,” **said Adria Crutchfield, Executive Director of the**

Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership. “Our country’s existing housing need far exceeds the annual congressional funding, and this bill will serve to not only target funding where it is most needed – children in families with low incomes – but to also promote practices BRHP has demonstrated through the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program to help families access neighborhoods of their choice and transition successfully to safe, healthy, and economically vibrant communities, breaking cycles of intergenerational poverty.”

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