

Two bipartisan bills in Congress could significantly fill the housing opportunity gap and prevent evictions



FILLING THE HOUSING OPPORTUNITY GAP

The Need is Significant • Housing instability affects the health and well-being of children and families. When families fall behind on rent, are forced to move multiple times, and/or experience homelessness, infants and toddlers are placed at an increased risk of being in poor health and not meeting developmental milestones. This creates a **“housing opportunity gap”** with long-lasting

ripple effects in our healthcare, education, carceral, and economic systems. Among those most highly impacted are families of color. Research shows that children and their families need access to safe, stable, and affordable homes throughout their lifetime in order to thrive. Without this stability, the mental and physical health of parents and children are all too often compromised.



Housing instability among families with young children =

\$111B

avoidable costs in health care and special education over a 10-year period (estimated)



Families with a history of eviction within the last five years are:

5x more likely to experience homelessness

3-4x more likely to experience other forms of housing instability



- To experience 2+ economic hardships
- To have children in fair or poor health
- To have children at developmental risk
- To have mothers who report depressive symptoms

1/2 of all families experiencing homelessness and

1/3 of tenants facing eviction are Black

A long history of racist policies in the United States paired with chronic disinvestment in housing for people with very low incomes has led to inequities in housing stability today.

TWO BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS

The Family Stability & Opportunity Act

The Family Stability and Opportunity Act filed by Senators Van Hollen (D-MD) and Young (R-IN) ensures critical investments in families with young children by creating 500,000 Opportunity Vouchers – also known as “mobility vouchers”.

- ✓ Reduced risk of eviction
- ✓ Increased housing stability
- ✓ Increased health outcomes
- ✓ Better educational outcomes
- ✓ Better economic mobility
- ✓ Billions of \$ in health costs saved

Eviction Crisis Act

Led by Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Rob Portman (R-OH), along with Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Todd Young (R-IN), the bipartisan Eviction Crisis Act would create new federal resources and strengthen legal protections to prevent and combat eviction.