

# NO BREAKS. ADVOCATE FOR FAMILIES THIS CONGRESSIONAL RECESS

National Parents Union | April 2025



**This April recess**, families must rise up and demand that our senators hold the Trump administration accountable for its attacks on children and families. The administration is using executive power to cut funding, roll back civil rights protections, and dismantle the very public systems our communities depend on, all behind closed doors and without a single vote from Congress.

One of the most alarming moves is the effort to eliminate the U.S. Department of Education, stripping away protections for students with disabilities, English language learners, and children from underserved communities. Without this federal oversight, states could ignore their responsibility to provide equitable education for all. We cannot let billionaires and political appointees unilaterally decide our children's futures. It's time for Congress to step up, families deserve transparency, public hearings, and real action.

Use this tool from the National Parents Union to demand a town hall and let your senators know: our kids are not up for grabs.



## Hold the Trump Administration Accountable for Harm to Children & Families

Congress has scheduled a two-week recess this April. During this period, members of Congress are in their home states, providing an opportune time for constituents to engage with them directly. This recess offers a critical window for families and advocates to meet with their senators and express concerns about the Trump administration's actions affecting children and families. Use these questions to tell your member of Congress not to make cuts to education, healthcare, and life-saving services for families.

### 1. National Parents Union Opposes the elimination of the U.S. Department of Education

#### What's Happening:

President Trump has signed an executive order to begin the process of eliminating the U.S. Department of Education, aiming to shift responsibility to the states and phase out the agency's authority over civil rights, education funding and grants and special education enforcement.

#### Why It Matters:

The Department of Education plays a critical role in ensuring every student, regardless of ZIP code, race, language, or disability status, has access to an equitable education. Eliminating this agency would end national oversight of civil rights in schools and put vulnerable students at risk.

#### Town Hall Question:

Will you commit to opposing the elimination of the U.S. Department of Education and take action to ensure immediate Congressional oversight?

### 2. National Parents Union opposes Education Funding Cuts

#### What's Happening:

The Trump administration has terminated or frozen federal education grants in multiple states, including funding for academic recovery, mental health supports, school safety, literacy programs, and teacher training. These cuts have been carried out without Congressional authorization.

#### Why It Matters:

These funding cuts are forcing school districts to lay off staff, cancel programs, and scale back services in the areas where students need support most. Executive actions are being used to bypass Congress, undermining the legislative process and endangering student outcomes across the country.

#### Town Hall Question:

Will you call for oversight hearings into the national education funding cuts carried out by this administration? What are you doing to protect schools in your district and nationwide from politically motivated defunding?

### 3. National Parents Union opposes undermining Special Education Services by Moving IDEA to HHS

#### What's Happening:

The administration has floated a plan to transfer enforcement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) from the Department of Education to the Department of Health and Human Services, an idea backed by RFK Jr.

#### Why It Matters:

HHS is not equipped to oversee education law or ensure that students with disabilities receive free and appropriate public education. This proposal is a clear attempt to weaken protections for students with disabilities and remove education experts from the enforcement process.

#### Town Hall Question:

Will you publicly oppose the transfer of IDEA oversight to HHS and protect the rights of students with disabilities under federal law?

### 4. National Parents Union opposes defunding Head Start and Early Learning Programs

#### What's Happening:

Head Start programs across the country are experiencing budget freezes, layoffs, and disruptions in services due to federal funding delays and non-renewals. These actions are happening quietly through administrative decisions.

#### Why It Matters:

Head Start provides essential services to children living in poverty, including early education, health screenings, meals, and family support. Cutting this program undermines school readiness and disproportionately impacts low-income families and children of color.

#### Town Hall Question:

Will you call for the release of existing funding for Head Start and demand transparency on early childhood education funding decisions made by this administration?

## **5. National Parents Union opposes cuts to Medicaid and CHIP.**

### **What's Happening:**

The Trump budget proposes over \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) over the next decade. These programs currently serve more than 35 million children.

### **Why It Matters:**

These cuts would force states to reduce services, eliminate coverage, and raise barriers to care—particularly for children with disabilities, rural families, and low-income households.

### **Town Hall Question:**

Will you oppose any federal budget proposal that includes cuts to Medicaid or CHIP? What actions are you taking to safeguard coverage for vulnerable children?

## **6. Cuts to SNAP, WIC, and School Meals**

### **What's Happening:**

The proposed budget proposes reductions that will impact food assistance programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and free school meals.

### **Why It Matters:**

Tens of millions of children rely on these programs to eat. Cuts will increase food insecurity, impact child development, and harm learning outcomes.

### **Town Hall Question:**

Will you commit to protecting food assistance programs from budget cuts and push for full funding for school meals, WIC, and SNAP?

## **7. National Parents Union supports the inclusion of the Child Tax Credit in the Tax Package**

### **What's Happening:**

As the tax package is negotiated, there is potential for a major tax cut for hard working American families through the expansion of the Child Tax Credit, which, when fully implemented in 2021, cut US Child Poverty in half.

### **Why It Matters:**

Families are struggling with rising costs and Congress has the opportunity to add money to their bottom line through the child tax credit.

### **Town Hall Question:**

Will you support the expansion of the Child Tax Credit? How many more children must fall into poverty before Congress acts?

## **8. Cuts to Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) and Impact on Programming for EL's**

### **What's Happening:**

On March 11, the Department of Education terminated nearly all staff in the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA), leaving only one staff person to administer \$890 million in federal Title III funds across the country.

### **Why It Matters:**

English Learners, who make up one in ten students in our K-12 system—are striving for equal educational opportunity just like their non-English learner peers. OELA plays a vital role in monitoring how states and schools spend Title III dollars, supports bilingual education teacher training, and oversees a grant program that helps Native American and Alaska Native children learn English alongside indigenous languages. Without adequate staff, we fear federal dollars won't reach the English learners they're intended to serve, and that the quality of teacher training will suffer.

### **Town Hall Question:**

How will you ensure that English Learners, who make up one in ten students in K-12 schools, receive the support to which they are entitled under federal law?



# NO BREAKS. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHEN MEETING ELECTED OFFICIALS

## Hold the Trump Administration Accountable for Harm to Children & Families

During this April recess, it's critical that we show up to town halls and community events to hold our elected officials accountable—but we must do so safely and strategically. Our voices matter, and this is our chance to bring tough, necessary questions directly to our senators about the harmful policies coming from the Trump administration, especially those threatening our children's education and civil rights. Come prepared, speak boldly, and stand together—because staying silent is not an option when our families are under attack. Here are some Know Your Rights: Meeting with Elected Officials tips when attending town halls. **Note: Make sure to follow all local and national laws when attending town halls.**

### YOUR RIGHT TO ATTEND

- You have the right to attend public town halls and forums hosted by your elected officials, even if you disagree with their views.
- You can't be removed for peacefully expressing your opinion, asking questions, or holding signs (as long as you're not disrupting the event).

### YOUR RIGHT TO ASK QUESTIONS

- You have the right to ask questions during Q&A sessions.
- Prepare a clear, concise question. Use your voice to raise concerns—especially about federal actions affecting your family or community.
- Tip: Identify yourself as a constituent (e.g., "I'm a parent from Charles County...").

### YOUR RIGHT TO PEACEFUL PROTEST

- You can hold signs, wear buttons or shirts, and stand in silent protest.
- You cannot block entrances/exits or create safety hazards, but peaceful protest is protected under the First Amendment.

### YOUR RIGHT TO PETITION AND SHARE STORIES

- You can bring letters, petitions, or stories to hand off to your senator or their staff.
- Personal stories can have a powerful impact. Be clear about what you want them to do (e.g., "I want you to oppose eliminating the Department of Education" and "I don't want you to cut Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security").

### YOUR RIGHT TO NOT BE INTIMIDATED

- You cannot be silenced or targeted for expressing dissenting views.
- If staff or security try to remove you unfairly, calmly ask for a reason. Ask for them to identify themselves. Document the interaction if you can.

### YOUR RIGHT TO RECORD (IN MOST CASES)

- Most town halls held in public spaces allow you to record audio or video.
- Be discreet and respectful—don't interrupt others or block views with your camera.

### PRO TIPS

- Show up early to sign in and find a seat near the mic.
- Bring others—a group can amplify your message.
- Follow up in writing—email their office to reinforce your ask. Include the one pagers the National Parents Union has created that breaks down the negative impact dismantling the Department of Education would have in your state.