

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate on significantly reducing child poverty by calendar year 2019.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—113th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 1086

To reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by _____

Viz:

1 On page 141, insert at the end the following:

2 **SEC. 13. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON SIGNIFICANTLY REDUC-**
3 **ING CHILD POVERTY BY CALENDAR YEAR**
4 **2019.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

6 (1) the United States has the highest rate of
7 childhood poverty among 34 major countries in the
8 Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Devel-
9 opment, including Denmark, Finland, Norway, Ice-
10 land, Cyprus, Austria, Sweden, the Czech Republic,
11 Germany, Slovenia, Hungary, South Korea, the
12 United Kingdom, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Ire-

1 land, France, Malta, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Esto-
2 nia, Belgium, New Zealand, Poland, Canada, Aus-
3 tralia, Japan, Portugal, Greece, Italy, Lithuania,
4 Latvia, Spain, and Bulgaria;

5 (2) a record-breaking 46,496,000 individuals
6 lived in poverty in the United States in 2012, which
7 is an increase of 14,915,000 individuals since 2000;

8 (3) 16,073,000 children in the United States
9 lived in poverty in 2012, which is an increase of
10 4,486,000 children since 2000;

11 (4) more than 7,100,000 children in the United
12 States, 40 percent of children living in poverty in the
13 United States, live in extreme poverty (defined as
14 living in families with an income that is less than
15 half of the poverty level);

16 (5) nearly 1,200,000 public school students in
17 the United States were homeless in the 2011–2012
18 school year, an increase of 73 percent since the
19 2006–2007 school year;

20 (6) in an average month in fiscal year 2011,
21 1,200,000 households with children in the United
22 States did not have any cash income and, for food,
23 depended only on benefits under the supplemental
24 nutrition assistance program established under the

1 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
2 seq.);

3 (7) in 2012, government assistance programs
4 removed from poverty 9,000,000 children, including
5 5,300,000 children through the earned income tax
6 credit under section 32 of the Internal Revenue
7 Code of 1986 and the child tax credit under section
8 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and
9 2,200,000 children through the supplemental nutri-
10 tion assistance program established under the Food
11 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

12 (8) in 2012, child poverty would have been 57
13 percent higher, and extreme poverty would have
14 been 240 percent higher, without government tax
15 credits and food, housing, and energy benefits;

16 (9) in 2013, an individual working full-time at
17 the Federal minimum wage could not afford the fair
18 market rent for a 2-bedroom rental unit and have
19 enough money for food, utilities, and other neces-
20 sities;

21 (10) in school years 2009–2010 and 2010–
22 2011, less than half of children ages 3 and 4 were
23 enrolled in preschool;

24 (11) Early Head Start programs carried out
25 under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.)

1 served only 4 percent of the 2,900,000 eligible poor
2 infants and toddlers each day in fiscal year 2012,
3 and Head Start programs carried out under such
4 Act served only 41 percent of the 2,000,000 eligible
5 poor children ages 3 and 4;

6 (12) more than 220,000 children are on waiting
7 lists for child care assistance; and

8 (13) child poverty costs the United States not
9 less than \$500,000,000 each year in additional edu-
10 cation, health, and criminal justice costs and in lost
11 productivity.

12 (b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the
13 Senate that the President should immediately present to
14 Congress a comprehensive plan to significantly reduce
15 child poverty in the United States by calendar year 2019.