

Thank you for allowing us to share local, state and federal early childhood policy news with you on a regular basis! As a valued recipient of the Ounce Policy Digest we are seeking your feedback on the current content, structure and frequency of the digest in this [brief survey](#).

We estimate the [survey](#) will take 5 minutes to complete and we advise you to do so in one sitting if possible. The deadline for completing the survey is by COB, **Friday, August 18**. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch with Elizabeth Kenefick, policy analyst, at ekenefick@theounce.org.

Table of Contents

[Highlights](#) | [Federal Updates](#) | [Policy Trends & Analysis](#) | [New Research](#) | [Upcoming Events](#) | [News and Resources](#) | [News from the States](#) |

Highlights

FY2018 Federal Budget

Members of the US House of Representative continued to move forward on the FY2018 appropriations process last month. The House Budget and House Appropriations Committees coordinated on funding numbers as House leadership is considering moving the 12 appropriations bills as an omnibus package.

- The House Budget Committee unveiled its FY2018 budget plan, "[Building A Better America](#)," that would initiate a number of changes at the federal level, such as redirecting foreign aid spending, reforming Medicaid and increasing funding for the Department of Defense. [The Atlantic](#), [The Washington Post](#), and [The New York Times](#) covered the release of the plan.
- The Appropriations Committee's subcommittees reviewed and approved a number of the funding bills including the [Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Funding bill](#). [First Five Years Fund](#) noted the subcommittee's commitment to early childhood education through proposed allocation increases to Head Start (\$29.1M) and Child Care and Development Block Grant (\$4M), as well as level funding for Preschool Development Grants. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities \(CBPP\)](#) and [Center for Law and Social Policy \(CLASP\)](#) also analyzed the impact of the appropriations bills on children and families.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) ^

Federal Updates

Health Care Reform

After several days of voting on various ACA repeal options, the Senate ultimately failed to move forward its "skinny repeal" plan with three Republicans defecting from the party line.

- Read statements from policy and advocacy organizations about the impact the proposed changes could have had on children and families and what is expected in the weeks and months to come-[Center for Law and Social Policy](#), [Families USA](#), [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), [Coalition on Human Needs](#) and [Georgetown Center on Children and Families](#).

Home Visiting Bill Introduced

Members of the US House of Representatives Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees introduced [The Home Visiting Works Act of 2017](#). The bill would reauthorize the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program for five years with a gradual increase in program funding up to \$800 million annually. Read [statements](#) from Reps. Danny Davis, Diana DeGette, Lloyd Doggett, and Kathy Castor for more information. The 48-member Home Visiting Coalition supported the introduction of the legislation in a [press statement](#).

Early Childhood Education Investment

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report called ["Early Learning and Child Care: Agencies Have Helped Address Fragmentation and Overlap through Improved Coordination"](#) as an update to a report it published in 2012. The new report highlights efforts by the US Departments of Health and Human Services and Education to address previous concerns through increased agency coordination with items such as joint policy statements, dedicated staff, and inter-departmental workgroup.

States and Early Childhood Programs

The US House of Representatives Education and the Workforce Committee's Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education [held a hearing](#) about opportunities for state leadership in early education. The GAO's Director of Education, Workforce, and Income Security Cindy Brown Barnes highlighted major findings from the "Early Learning and Child Care: Agencies Have Helped Address Fragmentation and Overlap through Improved Coordination" report in her [testimony](#).

[Back to Table of Contents](#) ^

Policy Trends & Analysis

Infants and Toddlers

- ZERO TO THREE (ZTT) released a new brief ["Advancing State Policies for Infants and Toddlers: Lessons Learned from Three States"](#) that describes the experiences of three states (Indiana, Oregon and Vermont) working to develop and take action toward cross-sector infant-toddler policy priorities and offers recommendations for other states looking to engage in similar processes.
- Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) and ZTT released ["Health Insurance: A Critical Support for Infants, Toddlers, and their Families"](#) outlining the positive benefits of access to quality, affordable health insurance.

Kindergarten Transitions

New America's Early & Elementary Education policy team published "[Connecting the Steps: State Strategies to Ease the Transition from Pre-K to Kindergarten](#)" which highlights efforts in Colorado, Oregon, Washington and West Virginia to smooth the transition process and provides recommendations for other states to facilitate similar improvements such as bringing directors and principals together and using ESSA funds to finance transition activities.

Home Visiting

Researchers with Urban Institute developed a new feature [story and video](#) on early childhood home visiting programs and the funding gaps on behalf of the National Home Visiting Resource Center.

Affordable Child Care

Care.com's Cost of Care Survey releases a [report from parents](#) across the US on childcare spending habits finding that one third of families in the United States spend 20% or more of their annual household income on childcare. [CNBC covered](#) the release of the report.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) ^

New Research

Home Visiting

Nobel laureate James Heckman and researchers from Yale School of Nursing, University of California - Irvine, University of California, Los Angeles and the University of Hawaii released a [National Bureau of Economics \(NBER\) working paper](#) on the Memphis Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program, showing voluntary home visiting has extensive short- and long-term benefits for mothers and their children. [Read more](#) from First Five Years Fund.

Postpartum Depression

The *US News & World Report* features Dr. Harvey Karp, who [discusses his research](#) on sleep and postpartum depression.

Academic Preschools

Researchers with the University of California Berkeley's Institute of Human Development recently [released a study](#) on the relationship between attendance in preschool programs focusing on academic skills and cognitive outcomes; this research supports positive benefits for childhood cognition and increasing academic skill development for those who attend academic preschools. In [US News & World Report](#), AEI's Katharine Stevens discusses the limitations of this study, particularly the lack of consideration for social-emotional skills.

Mental Health

The Born This Way Foundation released its findings from its Kind Communities - [A Bridge To Youth Mental Wellness survey](#), reporting that kindness, peer networks, and mental health resources are significant when looking at mental health services for young adults. Pat Donachie for [Education Dive](#) talks further on the results of this research.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) ^

Upcoming Events

August 21, 2017

The National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) is [hosting a webinar](#) "Delivering on the Promise of Early Childhood Education (ECE)" from 3-4 pm ET.

November 29-December 1, 2017

ZERO TO THREE's Annual Conference will be held in San Diego California. Visit their [website](#) to learn more.

January 31, 2017-February 2, 2018

The Ounce of Prevention Fund will host the Seventh National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs. Join fellow researchers, advocates, policymakers and practitioners from across the country as we explore key issues impacting the home visiting field throughout an expanded, three-day agenda. [Register and learn more](#) about the Summit.

Achieve OnDemand Home Visiting Training

Check out new Achieve OnDemand live one-hour webinars and self-paced training offerings. All of the trainings are made by home visitors for home visitors. View the [available trainings](#) online.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) ^

News and Resources

Education Inequity

Sarah Mead with Bellwether Education Partners writes in [US News & World Report](#) about how early the education disparity begins.

Minimum Wage

[The National Women's Law Center's Christina Canalizo](#) writes on the stagnation of United States minimum wage, and aspects of cost of living that have risen since the last federal minimum wage increase including the cost of child care.

Early Childhood Investment

Governors Brian Sandoval and Jay Inslee [sent a letter](#) to the chairs and ranking members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and House Committee on Education and the Workforce on behalf of the National Governors Association (NGA) and the nation's governors in support of early childhood education.

Paid Leave

Child Trends published a [blog post](#) "Paid parental leave is rare, but good for kids" that outlines the link between paid leave and child health outcomes.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) ^

News From The States

[CA](#) | [CO](#) | [GA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [LA](#) | [NH](#) | [NM](#) | [NY](#) | [OK](#) | [WA](#) |

California

- Dr. Deshawn Preston writes for [Diverse](#) regarding effects of the California Assembly's Committee on Higher Education's recent passing of the AB 705 bill for minority children.
-

Colorado

- *Daily Camera's* [Jim Marin discusses](#) Boulder County's child-care crisis.
-

Georgia

- Governor Nathan Deal releases a new early learning website [Words2Reading](#). Read more from [AllOnGeorgia](#).
-

Illinois

- [Associated Press](#) and [Peoria Public Radio](#) report on First Lady Diana Rauner's pilot providing house calls for newborns
 - Justin Conn for [Herald & Review](#) details the restoration of funding for Baby TALK Programs.
-

Indiana

- Sue Loughlin for [The Tribune Star](#) reports on shaping Indiana's legislation to comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
-

Louisiana

- Will Sentell of [The Advocate](#) outlines the state's proposed one-year extension in the overhaul of criminal background checks for 16,000 employees of licensed childcare centers.
-

New Hampshire

- [State Representative Skip Berrien writes](#) on New Hampshire's support for children and families.
-

New Mexico

- [The Albuquerque Journal's Dan Boyd](#) talks Senator John Arthur Smith and his prioritizing of school spending.

New York

- [WHAM reports](#) on Rochester's receipt of a multi-million dollar grant for its Head Start and Early Head Start programs.
- Matthew Chayes of [AM New York](#) discusses toddlers accepted into New York City's free public 3-k preschool program.

Oklahoma

- [Tulsa World publishes](#) US Representative Tom Cole's views on health, education and jobs.

Washington

- Brenda Kay Neth from the [International Examiner discusses](#) the second year of Seattle's Preschool Program.

[Back to Table of Contents](#) ^

The [Ounce national policy team](#) partners with and supports early childhood leaders in states as they advance a comprehensive agenda for at-risk children and families. We do this by providing individualized strategy and policy consultation and resources; facilitating peer-to-peer learning and networking across states; and supporting Educare schools and the Educare Learning Network in the development of their policy and advocacy work.

The National Policy Digest is a bi-monthly newsletter that shares up-to-date and noteworthy developments in state and federal early childhood news, policy and funding changes, research, policy trends and analyses, upcoming events, etc. culled from diverse sources in the field. To subscribe, please visit our [website](#).



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Change Your Preferences](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)
33 West Monroe Street Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60603 · 312.922.3863
©2017 Ounce of Prevention Fund