Eviction Crisis Act (S. 5535)

No child should have to worry about losing their home. Yet **1.5 million children in the U.S. are evicted** each year. Children are at the greatest risk of eviction, experiencing trauma and upheaval that could have lifelong implications for their future success.

Evictions impact every aspect of a child's life. Children who are evicted from their home are considerably more likely to **experience homelessness and be chronically absent from school** compared to their peers. They are less likely to graduate from high school. Mothers who experience an eviction with their children **are more likely to report depression and parenting stress** compared to other low-income mothers who didn't experience an eviction.

Eviction judgments and even eviction filings (which may or may not result in an eviction) **can follow people for many years** and cause landlords to reject them long after their eviction judgment or filing. Some tenant screening reports may **include children who were in the household**, preventing them accessing housing into adulthood.

Preventing evictions is not only the right thing to do, but it also makes smart economic sense. Short-term eviction prevention assistance can more than **double its return on investment**. Beyond the cost of legal fees and lost rent as units turn over, the consequences of increased homelessness and material hardship that follow evictions are **costly to communities**.

Family Promise has decades of experience operating effective programs that help children and their families stay in their homes. In 2025, our sites served over 12,200 families across the U.S. using our **eviction prevention program model**. Over 90% of families served remained in their homes, preserving their housing stability and preventing costly shelter stays.

Communities are implementing **effective programs to prevent evictions**, including mediation or diversion programs to avoid legal judgments, emergency rental assistance to help families cover back rent or other housing costs, and legal assistance for renters in housing disputes. Federal COVID-19 emergency rental assistance is no longer available to support these efforts, and more funding and action are needed to reach many families facing evictions.

The Eviction Crisis Act

The **bipartisan Eviction Crisis Act** (S. 5535), led by Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Todd Young (R-IN), would help more communities prevent evictions and support family housing stability in the U.S.

First, this bill would create a competitive grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for state and local governments to provide short-term financial assistance and housing-related services to tenants at risk of eviction or who are experiencing homelessness. This permanent program improves upon the emergency rental assistance available in response to COVID-19 by targeting assistance to tenants most at risk of eviction, allowing tenants to apply directly for aid, and preventing assistance from being considered taxable income.

Second, it would establish a separate grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for state and local governments to operate landlord-tenant community courts and eviction diversion programs.

Third, this legislation would improve eviction data by developing a national database to track eviction legal filings and judgments, establishing a Committee on Eviction Research to oversee the database and set a national research agenda on evictions, and directing the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a comprehensive study on the causes and consequences of evictions in the U.S.

Finally, it would take steps to improve the transparency and accuracy of tenant screening reports by requiring consumer reporting agencies to provide tenants with a copy of their screening reports and preventing eviction judgments in the tenant's favor from appearing on reports.

Family Promise proudly endorses the Eviction Crisis Act and urges Congress to pass this bill without delay. Use our **action alert** to ask your Members of Congress to support this bill and share it with your network.

Contact: Cara Baldari, cbaldari@familypromise.org