The Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act (S. 5405/H.R. 10688)

Every child deserves a home. Yet **child homelessness is growing in the U.S.**, and **children face the highest eviction rate** of any age group. Nearly **one-third of children** live in families struggling to afford housing and pay more than 30% of their monthly income on rent or other housing costs.

Housing choice vouchers are one of the strongest tools for preventing and ending child homelessness. Vouchers help low-income families rent in the private housing market by covering the gap between their household income and the rent cost.

Ample evidence shows that vouchers improve children's outcomes and future success by supporting **housing stability**, reducing **household stress**, and **freeing up income for necessities** such as food, clothing, gas, school supplies, and more. Vouchers are especially impactful for young children, who need stable housing to maintain consistent sleep, relationships, and routines **needed for healthy brain development**.

Yet most eligible families cannot access vouchers — **only 1 in 4 eligible families** receive them. **As of 2020, households wait an average of 2.5 years** to access a voucher, and in some communities, waiting lists are so long that officials have closed them to new applicants. To compound the problem, families with children are receiving a shrinking share of housing vouchers. In 2009, families with children made up about **52 percent** of Housing Choice Voucher recipients. By 2025, they made up only **36 percent**. The total number of vouchers serving families with children has also declined. Between 2002 and 2022, more than **260,000 vouchers** that had previously served families with children were no longer serving this population.

Families lucky enough to secure vouchers often have little choice about where they can use them to secure housing. Too often, landlords discriminate against voucher holders, especially households with children, and the tight rental market is making it harder to find landlords willing to accept them. Research shows that **children who move to high-opportunity neighborhoods early in life** — those with high-performing schools and low poverty rates — earn more as adults. Yet families with vouchers struggle to utilize them in high-opportunity neighborhoods.

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The bipartisan **Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act** (S. 5405/H.R. 10688), led by Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Todd Young (R-IN), Joe Neguse (D-CO), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), would help more families afford housing and promote children's future success by creating 250,000 new housing vouchers over five years specifically for families with young children (ages 0-5).

These vouchers would be available to families with young children experiencing homelessness or housing instability, or who live in areas of concentrated poverty. The bill would not only help address the shortage of housing vouchers for families with children but also support families trying to move to higher-opportunity neighborhoods by pairing these new vouchers with mobility services such as landlord navigation and case management. These services would help families to find landlords in high-opportunity neighborhoods willing to accept these vouchers and support them while they settle into their new neighborhood.

Family Promise proudly endorses the Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers 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.

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