

POLICY ZONE 1: JUST AND CARING COMMUNITIES

PROMISE:

America's children will be able to play freely in parks, walk safely to bus stops, and learn in schools that feel safe, with the support of caring neighbors and dedicated public servants.



PROBLEM:

- Violence, at any level, takes away children's peace and playtime.
- Guns are the top cause of death for children and teens in America.
- Young people of color make up 62% of youth charged in the juvenile justice system.
- Immigration enforcement efforts tear American families apart and hurt children's well-being.

Key policy paths to improve safety and support of American communities:

Policymakers should focus on research, data, and community input to take viable steps that protect American families from the dangers and ongoing trauma of community violence:

- Enforce sensible gun laws.
- Train law enforcement on preventing excessive force and addressing biases.
- Shift public safety resources from reactive to proactive youth support programs.
- Establish and fund community support services that keep youth out of custody.
- Implement policies to reunite children with their foreign-born parents.
- Ensure LGBTQ+ youth have access to the care, support, and protection they need.

Moonshot Generational Commitment:

Close youth jails and detention centers to fulfill our commitment to ending the criminalization of children.

POLICY ZONE 2: FAMILY STABILITY AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY

PROMISE:

Every young person in America will have the opportunity to come from a loving, stable home and the chance to achieve even more than the previous generation did.



PROBLEM:

- Household stability and mobility for America's children is on the decline.
- In the past decade, 29 states have seen an increase in the number of children in foster care.
- During the 2020-2021 school year, one in every 45 public school students is currently unhoused.
- Today, only half of America's children earn more than their parents, compared to 90% in 1940.

Key policy paths to strengthen family stability and economic mobility

Policymakers need to prevent crises leading children into the welfare system, ensure quality foster care, close the racial wealth gap, and address unfair economic policies favoring corporations and the wealthy over America's low-income families:

- Redefine "neglect" to prevent separating Black and Brown families due to poverty and reduce their disproportionate involvement in the child welfare system.
- Comprehensive support kinship care in foster and adoptive systems.
- Adopt a living minimum wage and equal pay for all genders.
- Expansion of the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit and closure of tax loopholes to improve social safety net funding.
- Guarantee access to affordable housing and establish pathways to homeownership.
- Broaden student loan debt forgiveness for American students.

Moonshot Generational Commitment:

Fulfill our promise to end child poverty in America by implementing a permanent, universal family or child allowance.

POLICY ZONE 3: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND HEALING

PROMISE:

All young people enjoy regular, nourishing meals and active lives, marked by positive social adjustment, sustainable environments, and healthcare homes for their bodies and minds.



PROBLEM:

- 10.7 million young people in American live in a household that struggles with food insecurity.
- In 2021, over 40% of students felt persistently sad or hopeless, with nearly one-third acknowledging that they had poor mental health.
- Before the COVID-19 pandemic, 4.4 million children did not have health insurance.

Key policy paths to transform Children's Health and Healing

Policymakers should address social factors affecting health to ensure all Americans, regardless of socioeconomic status, have access to quality care and healthy living conditions:

- Restore universal, free school meals for all of America's students.
- Expand access to healthy food and reduce federal subsidies for sugary foods and drinks.
- Incentivize behavioral health care for youth by boosting reimbursement for providers.
- Ensure affordable, quality health care by expanding Medicaid to more areas.
- Invest in cleaning up the environment around schools and playgrounds.

Moonshot Generational Commitment:

Make sure all American students have access to free school meals and that each child's physical and mental health needs are covered.

POLICY ZONE 4: EDUCATION FOR CIVIC LIFE AND WORK

PROMISE:

America's students will engage with their communities by learning about their culture, democracy, and history in age-appropriate ways. This prepares them to vote, volunteer, and participate in public life while also equipping them for the job market on a global stage.



PROBLEM:

- In America, we spend 2.7 times more on incarceration per person than on education.
- In 2022, math scores for students in grades 4-8 dropped to their lowest level since the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) testing began in 1990. Only 7 out of 50 U.S. states require a full year of civics/government classes, while 13 states have none.

Key policy paths for improvement of Education for Civic Life and Work

Policymakers should restore public education's focus on preparing informed citizens by reversing the decline in civics education since the 2002 No Child Left Behind Act. Support age-appropriate teaching to develop life skills, civic engagement, and workforce readiness.

- Adjust funding to ensure fair distribution and better support for schools with marginalized students across America.
- Advocate for social studies classes in middle schools.
- Align high school graduation requirements with college entry standards.
- Implement media education in high schools.
- Support universal access to college up to an associate degree.
- Support campaigns for inclusive history education and oppose selected censorship.
- Increase funding for paid summer jobs, internships, and skills development programs.

Moonshot Generational Commitment:

- Equip America's youth with a federal voting age to 16.
- Shift public school funding from relying on property taxes to a more equitable system.

POLICY ZONE 5: EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PROMISE:

Every child in America deserves the benefit of good prenatal care, the ability to form a strong bond with their mom, and high-quality early learning experiences for kindergarten readiness.



PROBLEM:

- Prenatal to age five is a crucial time for a child's brain development in growth and learning.
- In 2021, the 8.7 million childcare spots available for 12.3 million kids underscored a crisis for American families and the economy.
- The cost of infant childcare costs more than public college tuition in 34 states and the District of Columbia.
- American Black women are three to four times more likely to die from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth than American White women.

Key policy paths to expand Early Learning and Development

Policymakers should establish policies ensuring all children, regardless of race, gender, or income, receive a healthy start, family support, and high-quality care and early learning. Government at all levels must ensure every child has excellent support from birth to be ready for kindergarten.

- Support prenatal and maternal health care that is accessible and culturally sensitive.
- Ensure that even the lowest income families have Early Head Start and Head Start programs.
- Broaden home visitation programs to connect families with resources, support parents, and identify developmental needs early.
- Increase funding to ensure access to equitable quality childcare programs.
- States should promote quality rating systems and support early educator pipelines to ensure providers receive fair, living wages.
- Support full-day kindergarten to help children transition smoothly into elementary school.
- Ensure all Americans have access to paid family leave to support bonding and attachment as families welcome a new child.

Moonshot Generational Commitment:

America's children will have access to free high-quality pre-K starting at age three.