

# INVESTING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE'S FUTURE

Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) was founded in 2014 as the political advocacy arm of Save the Children and is the political voice for kids. Today, SCAN is working to mobilize more than **2,000 supporters in New Hampshire** to make sure every child in the United States has access to high-quality early childhood education and that no mother or child around the globe dies from a preventable disease or illness.

Our New Hampshire volunteer leadership network—based in **the Central region and the Upper Valley**—is engaging parents, teachers, medical professionals, law enforcement officials and local business leaders who are passionate about advocating for kids. Additionally, we have active Student Ambassador Programs at **Colby-Sawyer College, Saint Anselm College, University of New Hampshire, Bow High School and Bedford High School**. Learn more about how to become involved at [www.SaveTheChildrenActionNetwork.org/NewHampshire](http://www.SaveTheChildrenActionNetwork.org/NewHampshire).



## Opportunities for All Children in New Hampshire

Investing in early childhood education and care is one of the most effective ways to break the cycle of poverty. These investments lay the foundation for success later in school and in life.

### The Challenge

The environment and interactions children are exposed to during the first five years of life greatly influences their futures. Unfortunately, these programs are out of reach for many working families across the nation, including in New Hampshire, where **approximately 30 percent of children live in poverty**.

New Hampshire is one of 11 states that does not invest any state money in public preschool programs. In most school districts, public preschool is available only to children in need of special education services. Furthermore, in 2014, the state was able to fund Head Start and Early Head Start services for only 1,600 children. Thousands of children in New Hampshire still do not have access to full-day kindergarten programs.

### The Solution

Two generational high-quality early learning and care programs offer real benefits not only to families, but to the entire country. A December 2016 report from Nobel Prize-winning University of Chicago economist James Heckman shows the rate of return on investments in early childhood development for children in high-quality programs can be 13 percent per child, per year due to improved outcomes in education, health, sociability, economic productivity and reduced crime.

We know that expanding access to high-quality education is the best way to close the growing opportunity gap in our country. That's why SCAN is continuing to work with Democrats and Republicans in New Hampshire to expand access to high-quality early childhood education programs, including full-day kindergarten.

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## Helping Children Around the World Survive

Children all around the world deserve to survive until their fifth birthdays and beyond. Investing in the health of moms and kids reduces poverty, sparks economic growth, creates more secure nations and saves lives.

### The Challenge

Globally, 5.6 million children under age 5—nearly half of whom are infants—die each year from preventable causes such as pneumonia, malnutrition and malaria. More than 800 mothers die every day from problems related to their pregnancies. In too many cases, moms and kids around the world do not have access to the medical care or supplies they need to survive. This is heart breaking, but the good news is that because of leadership from the United States more moms and kids are surviving—and we can do even better.

### The Solution

In the last 20 years, the number of mothers and kids dying from preventable diseases has dropped by half. Simple and inexpensive solutions, like basic medicine, thermometers and clean water, are saving lives. That's why SCAN is building bipartisan support for the Reach Every Mother and Child (Reach) Act, a bipartisan bill in the U.S. House and Senate which would help end the preventable deaths of mothers and children around the world. Senator Jeanne Shaheen was an original cosponsor of the Reach Act in 2017.

## Our Successes

With the help of our activist base in New Hampshire, we have made great progress in advancing our goals for children in the Granite State and around the world.

In 2017, we worked with New Hampshire state lawmakers and Governor Chris Sununu to increase state funding for full-day kindergarten programs across the state. Because of our efforts, we permanently increased the state's investment by at least \$9 million per year, which could grow if more funds become available, expanding access to full-day programming for thousands of children. Additionally, we helped elect two early childhood education supporters to the Concord School Board and partnered with Southern New Hampshire Services to open a Head Start classroom in Manchester in November 2017.

In 2015, SCAN supported candidates for Board of Aldermen and School Board in Manchester, N.H. who pledged to increase access to high-quality early learning programs. As a result, 13 pro-early childhood education candidates won—and SCAN is continuing to work with them to fulfil their pledge to ensure every child in Manchester has a healthy start in life.

## Looking Ahead

With elections coming up in 2018, our work is needed now more than ever. We will continue to advocate to make sure every child has the opportunity to succeed. In 2018, we are focused on expanding full-day kindergarten in communities like Concord, and loosening requirements on New Hampshire mothers who receive Medicaid seeking home-visiting services to support their families.

We are also continuing to focus on maintaining strong funding of federal programs that help kids succeed as well as gaining support among additional members of New Hampshire congressional delegation on the Reach Act.

Children may only be 20 percent of our population, but they are 100 percent of our future. Investments in our kids are the best ones we can make.