

Vote Kids 2024



## CARE AGENDA NARRATIVE

*This narrative introduces, explains, and helps persuade others about the care agenda, how it fits our common values, is pro-child and family, and can be enacted with our actions and votes.*

**THE VALUES WE SHARE.** We all care deeply about our families and our children and believe government should be there to support them, particularly when economic and family circumstances make it hard. We don't want to be divided by our differences – in faith, gender, race, career, or zip code -- but too often politics plays on such differences rather than pulling us together.

We need government to provide pro-child and family policies that make it possible for families to raise their children according to their faith and values and be economically secure in doing so. We want policies that ensure, when families have members with special needs, they don't have to choose between being a breadwinner or a caregiver in meeting them or experience additional stress that jeopardizes the quality time they want and need with one another. The care agenda does that and is really the pro-child and family care agenda our country needs.

### HOW THE PRO-CHILD AND FAMILY CARE AGENDA SUPPORTS THOSE VALUES.

Specifically, the pro-child and family care agenda supports and strengthens the capacity for families to care for one another, raise their children to succeed, and be included as valued members of their community. It doesn't address everything families need to succeed, but it does provide the opportunity for all families to do so. The agenda includes five key provisions, all of which have strong voter support.

- A tax code that recognizes families with children have greater expenses than those without children – and expands the **Child Tax Credit** for everyone and reducing child poverty in half.
- **Paid family leave** so families do not have to choose between keeping a job and providing nurturing care with the birth of a child or when a family member is sick.
- Affordable **child care and preschool** to enable families with young children to get by and get ahead while knowing their child is well-supervised and nurtured.
- Expanded **Home-and-community-based services** to enable family members with disabilities and special needs, including children, to maintain themselves in their communities and not to place additional burdens on those in the “sandwich” generations now providing primary care for both their children and their parents.
- A robust and valued **care workforce** that contributes to the local economy, serves as the workforce behind the workforce, and creates new career opportunities and employment that strengthen the middle class.

**WHAT WE CAN DO TO MAKE THE CARE AGENDA A REALITY.** The pro-child and family care agenda is on the ballot this November. It fell only a few votes short of being enacted in 2024. We need to engage and share the agenda so our coworkers, family members, friends, and neighbors also know about it and we elect a President who champions it and working majorities in the House and Senate to enact it. It is time we move our political system back to enacting policies that support what unites us and be about our children and families.