



ALL-AMERICAN FAMILY **AGENDA**

— CONGRESSWOMAN —
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— FOURTH DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA —

STRENGTHENING **AMERICAN FAMILIES**

On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate 250 years as a nation, built not for the privileged few, but for all who call it home. American families are the backbone of this Republic and their diversity is what keeps it strong. American families span all forms, races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses, all deserving of the American dream. Today, these families face real and serious strains as it becomes increasingly difficult to afford a home, childcare, college, health coverage and retirement. All the while Congressional Republicans' actions to separate families and slash health care funding continue to threaten the well-being of family units across the country.

Meanwhile, the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank whose policies frequently become Trump Administration priorities, has declared July 4th a moment to commemorate a narrow and exclusionary vision of the American family. The Foundation's [Saving America by Saving the Family Report](#) prioritizes procreation over partnership, heterosexuality over love and gender norms over shared responsibility. While I agree that American families deserve stronger support, I propose a better path to accomplish this. I envision a future in which American families are free to plan when, whether, and how to have children, free from the fear that a pregnancy may be too costly or complicated, and free to work and care for loved ones without living paycheck to paycheck.

The All-American Family Agenda is based on two pillars: supporting family formation and strengthening family well-being. My vision is to promote and pursue policies, in a fiscally responsible manner, that make family life accessible and affordable for every American, a goal that cannot be achieved until Congress reverses or reforms the harmful provisions of H.R. 1, the Big Ugly Law.

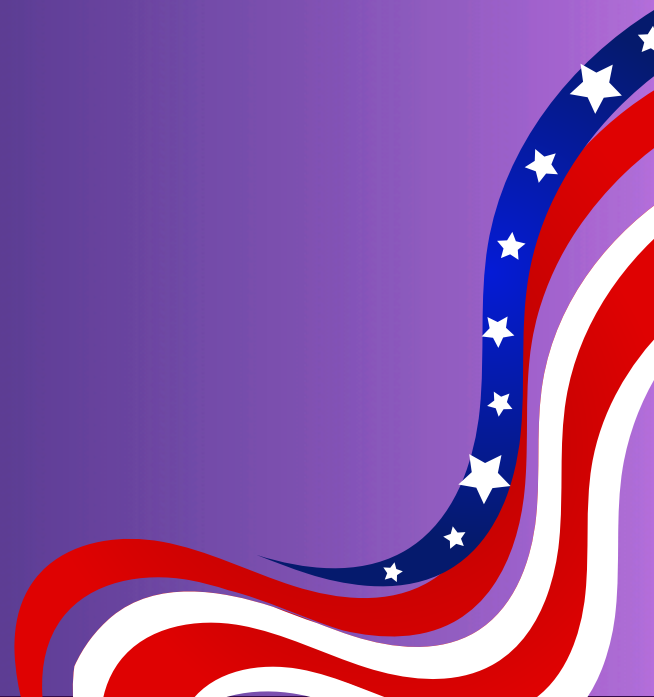
Our agenda is based on two pillars that aim to uplift American families where they need it most:

I. Supporting Family Formation

Equipping families with the tools they need to succeed at the outset, especially regarding reproductive freedom and maternal and infant health.

II. Strengthening Family Well-Being

Ensuring long-term financial security and working to reduce the cost of living for every American family.





Like our nation, America's families are diverse and ever-changing. The government should not define what an American family ought to look like, but rather make one easier to build. That starts with protecting every American's freedom to decide if, when, and how to start a family. With American mothers and infants dying at rates unseen in other developed countries, supporting family formation means investing in maternal health to keep our mothers safe and healthy and improve birth outcomes. It also means investing in our foster and adoption systems so that every path to building a family is met with the same support and resources. Supporting family formation means protecting reproductive freedom, improving maternal and infant health and ensuring every American can access a path to growing a family.

A. Supporting Women's Choice and Family Planning Freedom

i. Expand Access to Reproductive Health and Family Planning Services

Set standards for coverage of telehealth reproductive health services and over-the-counter contraceptives.

ii. Ensure Affordable and Comprehensive Reproductive Care

Fully fund the Title X Family Planning program and ensure that all Medicaid enrollees maintain the freedom to choose their own reproductive health provider.

iii. Safeguard Patient Autonomy and Data Privacy

Establish a national standard to protect personal reproductive and sexual health data and prohibit the disclosure of personal health information related to pregnancy in any legal proceeding without patient authorization.

iv. Support for All Families

Set training standards for LGBTQIA+ specific reproductive health and abortion providers and ensure insurance mandates are inclusive of all families seeking fertility treatments.

B. Improving Maternal Health Nationwide

i. Expand Access to Maternal Care

Expand the Rural Maternal and Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) program and increase funding for new or expanded maternal care units at Federally Qualified Health Centers.

ii. Bolster the Maternal Health Workforce

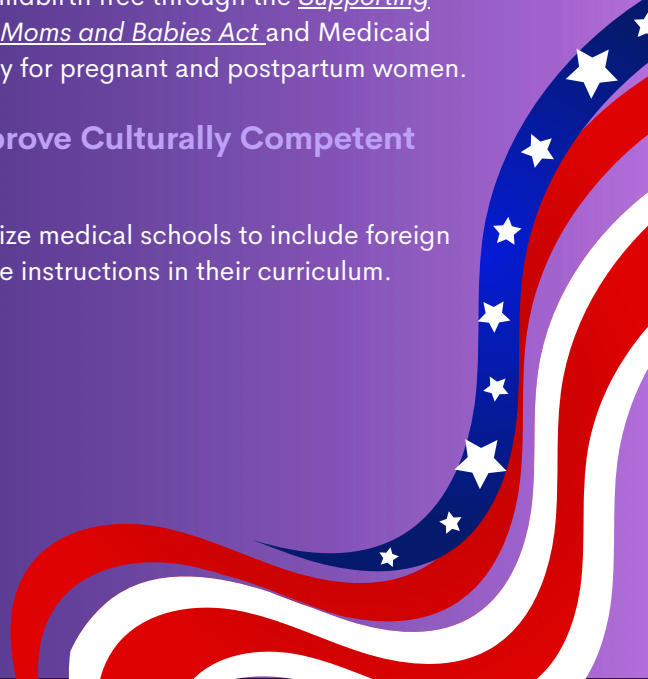
Increase the number of medical residency slots for students practicing family medicine and obstetrics/gynecology in designated underserved areas and expand access to health care workforce visas. Set federal standards of coverage for Doula and Midwives to support their retention.

iii. Cover the Cost of Care

Make childbirth free through the [Supporting Healthy Moms and Babies Act](#) and Medicaid eligibility for pregnant and postpartum women.

iv. Improve Culturally Competent Care

Incentivize medical schools to include foreign language instructions in their curriculum.





C. Supporting Every Path to Parenthood

i. Reduce the Cost of Adoption

Expand the Adoption Tax Credit to help families offset the financial costs of adoption.

ii. Invest in Post-Adoption Wraparound Services

Increase funding for public adoption promotion and support services under Title IV-B, including mental health treatment, respite care and crisis intervention services for adoptive families.

iii. Strengthen Kinship Care

Expand Title IV-E funding for evidence-based kinship navigator programs and increase support for kinship guardianship assistance.

iv. Keep Families Together When Safe

Expand evidence-based family preservation, mental health, and substance use treatment programs under the *Family First Prevention Services Act*.

v. Expand Insurance Coverage for Family-Building Care

Ensure fertility treatment insurance coverage is available to all individuals and families regardless of marital status, sexual orientation or gender identity.

vi. Protect Access to Fertility Care

Advance Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) like In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) and preserve and restore research programs like the National ART Surveillance System.

adopting Putting A Price on the Priceless: The Cost of Adoption

by Susan Doktor

TheUpshot

The New York Times

Why Two Big Companies Just Cut Paid Family Leave

Deloitte and Zoom are among the employers reducing support for working parents, signaling a retreat from family-friendly benefits.

U.S.

CBS NEWS

The quiet collapse of America's reproductive health safety net

By Dr. Céline Gounder

Updated on: October 30, 2025 / 10:38 AM EDT / CBS News

More Work is Necessary to Make Adoption Affordable and Attainable

BY **LEAH SUTTERLIN**

The Imprint
on Adoption



In 2025, the United States hit a record low fertility rate. At the same time, it is now estimated that the costs of raising a child to adulthood surpasses \$300,000. Soaring expenses for housing, childcare, healthcare and other basic necessities have made starting and sustaining a family increasingly out of reach for working and middle-class Americans. Strengthening family well-being means tackling the real costs families face daily and ensuring that workers can take time to care for a new child or aging parent without sacrificing their financial security.

A. Making Family Life Economically Accessible

Housing

i. Expand the Housing Market

Lower mortgage rates for first-time buyers, incentivize homeowners to sell vacant properties, invest in rehabilitating neglected homes and increase Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) allocations.

ii. Strengthen Renter Protections

Establish federal standards for emergency rental assistance, expand eviction prevention programs, and protect families from predatory rent increases and unsafe housing conditions.

iii. Invest in Rural Housing

Expand U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) loan and grants programs, increase funding for the Section 502 Direct Loan Program and support manufactured and modular housing production.

iv. Strengthen Medicaid Housing Supports

Broaden Medicaid coverage for housing-related services, including transitional housing assistance, tenancy support and home stability services for pregnant women, families with children and individuals with disabilities.

v. Eliminate the Black Homeownership Gap

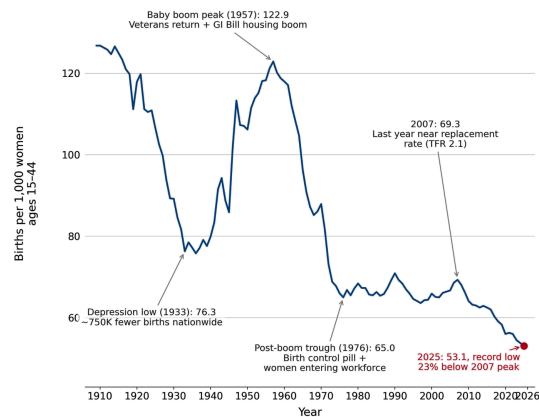
Resolve heirs' property barriers that have stripped generational wealth from Black families.

vi. Support Safe and Stable Housing for Domestic Violence Survivors

Increase funding for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Transitional Housing and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, extend Fair Housing Act protections to survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence in the private housing market and strengthen federal enforcement of VAWA housing protections across all federally subsidized programs.

The U.S. birth rate hit a record low in 2025

General fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15–44), 1909–2025 (2025 provisional)





A. Making Family Life Economically Accessible

Healthcare

i. Strengthen and Expand the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Cap family spending on premiums and deductibles regardless of coverage source, ban short-term and limited-duration plans that skirt ACA protections and establish minimum federal coverage standards across all plan types.

ii. Protect Medicare and Medicaid

Preserve Medicare's guaranteed benefits and drug price negotiation authority, restore Medicaid funding, expand eligibility for working families and modernize prior authorization to reduce administrative barriers to care.

iii. Lower Prescription Drug Costs

Extend Medicare's annual out-of-pocket drug cap and monthly insulin cap to individuals with private insurance, protect and strengthen the 340B Drug Pricing Program through transparency and accountability reforms and increase transparency and oversight across the prescription drug supply chain.

iv. End Surprise Medical Bills and Medical Debt

Close the emergency ground ambulance billing loophole, strengthen No Surprises Act enforcement, remove medical debt from credit reporting and establish federal standards for hospital financial assistance and debt collection.



Everyday Costs

i. Lower Household Utility Costs

Expand the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), increase Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding, make permanent the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), establish a federal residential rate relief fund and require utility companies to offer affordable rate structures for low-income families.

ii. Promote Competition and Fair Pricing in Food Markets

Strengthen antitrust enforcement in food and agriculture markets, expand the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program and invest in nutrition programs that broaden access to healthy food.

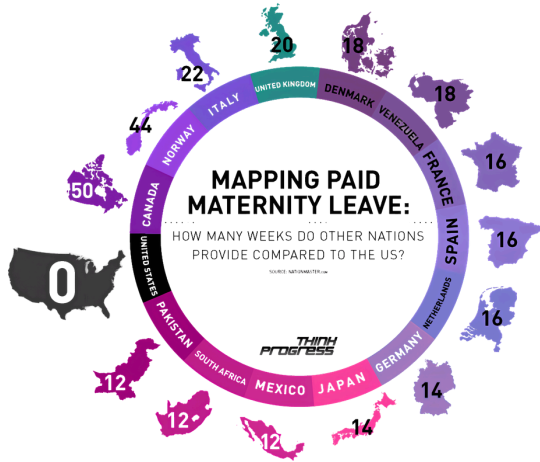
iii. Protect Federal Nutrition Programs

Expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's (SNAP) purchasing power and support small and mid-size agricultural producers through USDA technical assistance and certification programs.

iv. Reduce Family Transportation Costs

Expand rural and intercity transit grant programs and fund first/last mile transit connections in underserved areas.





B. Supporting Working Parents and Caregivers

i. Expand Flexible Work Options

Establish federal standards for flexible scheduling, advanced schedule notice, remote work and job-protected leave for family caregiving responsibilities.

ii. Make Child Care Affordable and Accessible

Expand the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), increase the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, encourage the construction of childcare facilities, including home care options, with priority for rural and underserved communities, and increase access to short-term childcare for mothers and their families during pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period through the [Child Care Assistance for Maternal Health Act](#), and ensure that every family has access to affordable child care.

iii. Establish a National Paid Family and Medical Leave Program

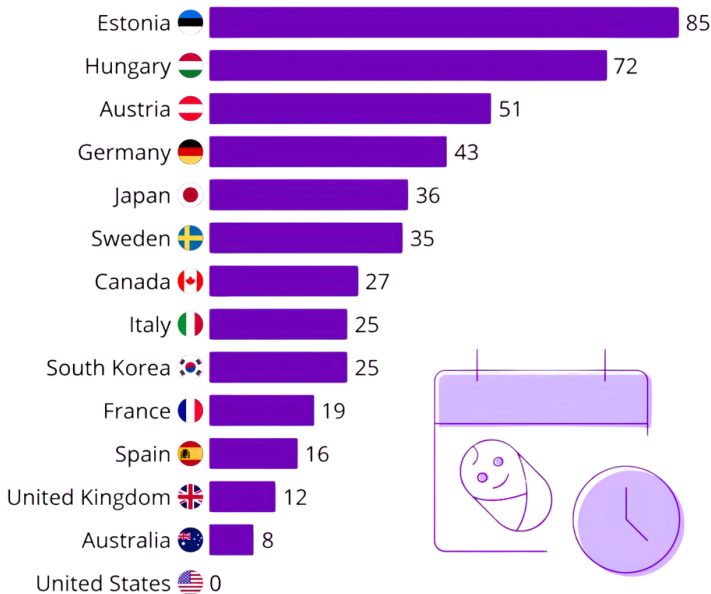
Create a comprehensive federal paid family and medical leave program providing robust wage replacement for workers welcoming a new child, recovering from a serious illness or caring for a loved one, funded through employer and employee payroll contributions.

iv. Support Elder Care and Family Caregivers

Increase funding for caregiver support programs under the Older Americans Act and provide a tax credit for family members providing unpaid care to elderly or disabled relatives.

The U.S. Remains Light-Years Behind In Maternity Leave

Total weeks of paid leave available to mothers (full-rate equivalent)*



* As of 2016. Weeks are presented as full-rate equivalent (total length of leave entitlement multiplied by the average wage replacement rate).

Source: UNICEF



Forbes statista



This July, America will celebrate 250 years of the promise that every person has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. For most Americans, that pursuit begins at home, with the families they build and the futures they create.

The All-American Family Agenda serves two purposes:

1. A commitment to making the American promise possible for all Americans. Rather than define what an American family looks like, the government must ensure that every family, regardless of how it is formed, where it lives, or what it earns, has the tools and support to thrive.
2. An invitation to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to legislate on these priorities, to advocates and stakeholders to organize around these principles and to industries to partner in achieving this vision.

As this nation celebrates 250 years, American families deserve opportunities to grow, afford and care for their families for the next 250 years.

Jennifer R. McCreese