

Global Child Thrive Reauthorization Act (H.R. 6347)

The Issue: Today, more than 250 million children are living in extreme poverty and face the risk of physical and neurological harm. These figures are alarming since 80% of brain development occurs between conception and 3 years of age. In response to these challenges, Congress enacted the Global Child Thrive Act in January 2021 to strengthen the integration of early childhood development (ECD) across U.S. foreign assistance. The Act established a coordinated policy framework to support children's early learning, health, nutrition and social-emotional development across all child-focused programs.

The Global Child Thrive Act operates through three core pillars: integrating ECD interventions into foreign assistance, coordinating with international partners to adopt best practices and developing evidence-based plans that support inclusive ECD programs in partner countries.

While collective efforts to combat child poverty have shown consistent effectiveness, as the number of children living on less than \$3.00 a day dropped from 507 million to 412 million between 2014 and 2024, the Global Child Thrive Act expired in 2025. This puts continued coordination and investment in early childhood development at risk without timely reauthorization.

The Solution: The Global Child Thrive Reauthorization Act (H.R. 6347) extends the Global Child Thrive Act through 2030, reaffirming congressional support for continued implementation of early childhood development priorities within U.S. foreign assistance. H.R. 6347:

- **Renews statutory authority** for federal agencies to continue implementing Global Child Thrive priorities using existing foreign assistance resources.
- **Does not appropriate new funding**, but allows continued use of existing funds through the annual appropriations process.
- **Provides additional time** for agencies to “develop coordinated ECD programming guidance and complex interagency work.”
- **Addresses an urgent need**, as child poverty continues to affect hundreds of millions of children worldwide and early deprivation is linked to long-term developmental harm.
- **Builds on high-return investments**, with economists estimating returns of up to [**13% per dollar invested**](#) in early childhood development.

Supporters: Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX-20), Rep. Rich McCormick (R-GA-07), Rep. Johnny Olszewski (MD-2) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-1) introduced the bipartisan Global Child Thrive Reauthorization Act in December 2025. H.R. 6347 is up for consideration, which, according to Rep. Castro, “means continuing to support the physical, cognitive, social and emotional health of vulnerable children and their families.”