

National Parents Union represents more than 1,000 affiliated parent organizations in all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, the National Parents Union is the united, independent voice of modern American families. We channel the power of parents into powerful policies that improve the lives of children, families and communities across the United States.

HR 734 bullies kids instead of teaching them to read. It's time to get focused on what matters to American families.

The National Parents Union continues to be frustrated with the lack of focus from House and Education Workforce Committee Leadership on issues that matter to American Families. Families across the country want Congress to focus on ensuring that every child is prepared for their future- not bullying kids who want to play sports among their peers.

32% of our country's 4th graders were proficient readers according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress. That means that 7 out of 10 of our current 5th graders cannot fully engage in their learning because they cannot read the content.

Our latest national parent poll clearly states parent priorities and nowhere to be found is anything about members of their kids sports teams.

90% Believe students should have access to **high-quality**, **well rounded education** with resources to support their individual needs.

90% Believe that students should be prepared for college and/or careers when they graduate.

90% Believe students should be protected from any form of discrimination at school.





OUR 2023 PRIORITIES TO SUPPORT HARD WORKING AMERICAN FAMILIES INCLUDE:

<u>SUPPORT FOR THE EXPANSION OF POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVES:</u> Congress allowed a key poverty reduction initiative (the expanded child tax credit) to expire even though it reduced child poverty in our country by half in just one year. Policies like tax credits, increased eligibility for family support programs like SNAP and WIC all lead to better childhoods for kids. **NPU supports President Biden's budget and encourages bipartisan action on reducing child hunger and poverty.**

SUPPORT PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE AND CAREER: We believe that in order to address the serious crisis of economic opportunity, schools should facilitate connections and partnerships with outside organizations of employment to help high school students realize their full potential with high wage, high skill and high demand employment. Schools should also be able to connect students with individualized pathways plans, dual enrollment and career connected programming. We need to support creative solutions to ensure that we don't lose the kids who missed the opportunities to grow up in a normal high school environment.

INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT: The science of reading and science of math instruction matters. Instructors need training on the latest research of how to effectively teach reading and math. Additionally, we know that overwhelmed parents across the country use assessment to understand whether their kid is on track. Protecting high quality assessment practices and supporting strong interventions for struggling school districts is imperative to ensuring that every child has access to a life of opportunity.

<u>INCREASING TIME IN SCHOOL TO ENSURE ACCELERATION IS POSSIBLE:</u> Kids need more time to catch up and policymakers need to step up and make that possible for them. NPU will support extended learning opportunity policies that gives parents stipends for after school learning, access to high quality tutoring programs, extended school year and summer school for all kids.

ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT: Parents are overwhelmed and need help supporting their students. Students deserve to be safe, healthy and feel supported at school. We believe that supporting public/private partnerships with mental health providers, adopting strong social emotional learning curriculum and training staff on trauma informed crisis intervention is the key to building the adequate support systems around our kids to help them improve their mental health.

INCREASING ACCESS TO PARENT CHOICE AND HIGH-QUALITY OPTIONS: Parents deserve access to a variety of accountable school options to ensure that each unique learner has an environment they can thrive in. The National Parents Union is proud to support policies that give unique learners multiple options, and we believe adamantly that antiquated laws that limit access to great schools by a students' zip code should be eliminated.