



PARENT & CAREGIVER ADVISORY BOARD 2025 REPORT A YEAR OF RESILIENCE AND CONNECTION



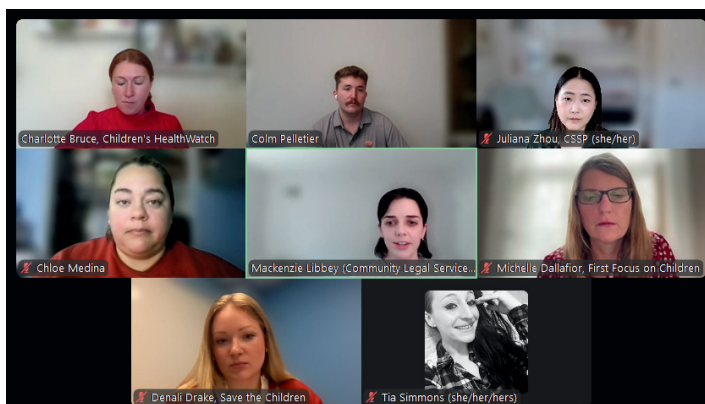
**Center for the
Study of
Social Policy**
Ideas into Action

Introduction


The Automatic Benefit for Children (ABC) Coalition's Parent and Caregiver Advisory Board had a busy year of advocacy and connection in 2025. The PAB welcomed its tenth member, led a months-long campaign to educate lawmakers on the need to fully expand the Child Tax Credit (CTC), and lent their expertise to coalition partners' work to support children and families.

Delivering the Message that Lawmakers Need to Hear

The Parent and Caregiver Advisory Board's (PAB) priority in the first half of 2025 was to ensure that their [child allowance principles](#) remained top of mind for lawmakers as Congress negotiated a major tax and budget reconciliation bill. PAB Members **Carolyn Hill, Chloe Medina, Kali Daugherty, Raegan Selden, Stephan Palmer, and Tia Simmons** met with eight key lawmakers in the House and Senate to share their [priorities for tax legislation](#) to expand the CTC for struggling families. In collaboration with the ABC coalition and other partner organizations, the PAB stressed their key message that the CTC is a critical part of a package of supports that families with low incomes rely on. Families need an expanded CTC as well as robust programs that promote health and well-being, including Medicaid and SNAP.



PAB Members **Chloe Medina** (center left) and **Tia Simmons** (lower right), along with ABC Coalition partners, met virtually with Rep. Rob Bresnahan's (PA-9) office to discuss their priorities for an expanded CTC.

**AUTOMATIC
BENEFIT FOR
CHILDREN**
Parent & Caregiver Advisory Board

OUR PRIORITY FOR 2025
Expand the Child Tax Credit

In 2025 Congress will consider major tax legislation as the temporary provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) expire. This is an important opportunity to make the tax code fairer. As parents, we have come together over the last several months to identify key priorities for 2025. We urge lawmakers to use this opportunity to expand the Child Tax Credit so that children and families have what they need. Specifically:

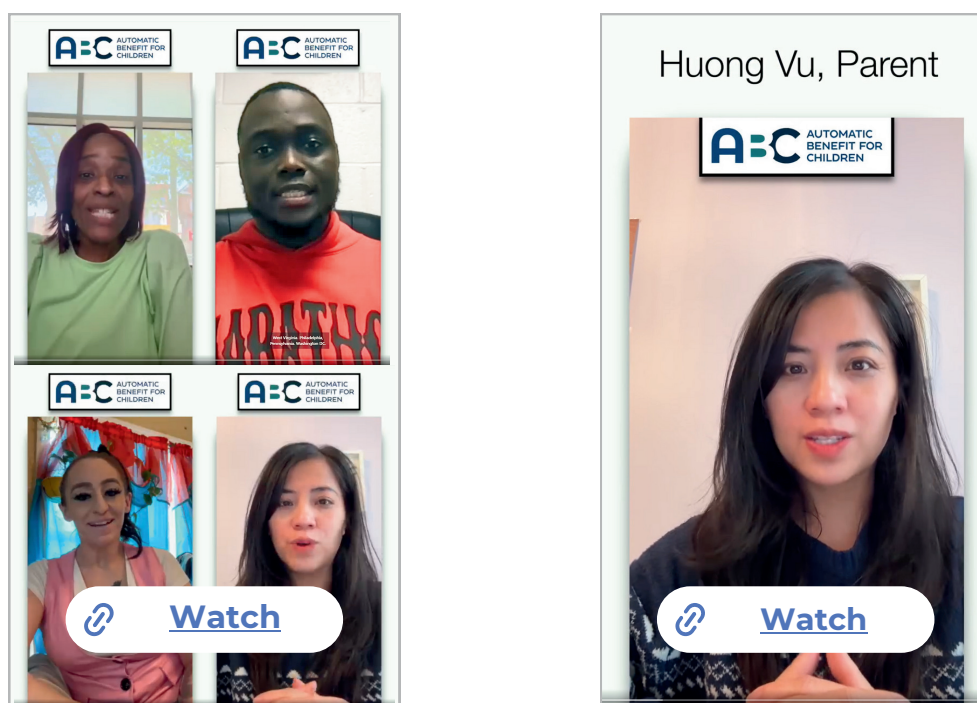
- **The Child Tax Credit (CTC) should be available to all children.**
 - Children in families with low or no income should receive the full credit, and there should be no earnings test or work history requirements.
 - The CTC should be fully available to children in immigrant families, including children with Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs) who were temporarily excluded from the CTC under the TCJA.
- **The CTC should be increased, to help with the rising costs of raising children.**
 - The temporary expansion of the CTC under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which delivered monthly payments of \$250 or \$300 per child, helped millions of families pay the bills. With rising costs, parents need even more support so we can provide our children with what we know they need to thrive.
 - Guaranteed income pilots that have provided between \$500 and \$1,000 per month to families have helped them pay the bills on time, reduced stress, and enabled parents to invest in enrichment activities and spend quality time with their children.
 - The CTC should be increased to at least \$500 per month per child, and the maximum benefit adjusted for inflation to keep up with the cost of living.
- **The CTC should be available via monthly payments.**
 - In 2021, the IRS proved it was possible to successfully deliver tax credits on a monthly basis when it delivered the expanded CTC to over 61 million children through monthly payments.
 - The IRS should be funded with adequate resources to ensure smooth delivery of future monthly payments, and to provide additional support to families who face barriers accessing the CTC so that they can receive the support they are owed.

You can read more about the Automatic Benefit for Children (ABC) Coalition's Parent and Caregiver Advisory Board [here](#). For more on our priorities see the ABC Coalition's [Child Allowance Principles](#).

 [Read More](#)

Influencing Tax Legislation

In addition to the PAB's direct advocacy, **Huong Vu, Joseph Yusuf, Raegan Selden, and Tia Simmons** also shot [1-minute videos](#) to personalize their message to lawmakers. **Huong Vu's** video was also included in a Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF) Congressional briefing on how H.R. 1 would harm children in immigrant families. Although the version of the CTC that ultimately passed in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act did not reflect the priorities of the PAB, these messages proved effective in getting the Senate to back down from an earlier version that would have removed even more children in immigrant families from eligibility for the CTC. The perspectives and voices of the PAB members continue to call attention to the tangible impact that policies have on real families like their own.



Deepening Relationships with Advocacy Partners

Throughout the year, the PAB also deepened their partnerships and connections with other coalitions and parent networks by honing their message on economic security for families in a cross-coalitional way. National policy partners frequently sought out PAB members as persuasive policy experts, even on issues beyond the Child Tax Credit. Partners invited PAB members to weigh in on issues like ways to protect and support immigrant families, best practices for person-centered policy development, and youth-driven policy solutions. Members participated in trainings, advocacy campaigns, and strategic convenings.

Laying the Groundwork for 2026

In the second half of the year, the PAB has been preparing for a larger campaign to organize and mobilize parents to expand the CTC and advance a child allowance over the long term. The PAB worked to build their capacity to organize and mobilize—with trainings from the Children’s Defense Fund and PAB member **Kali Daugherty**—and are now in the midst of planning a major tax season mobilization campaign for 2026 with the help of ABC coalition partners.

Adding A New Member to The PAB

This year also marked another exciting milestone for the PAB—**Carolyn Hill** joined the board as its tenth member. Carolyn’s perspective as a caregiver raising her grandchildren further deepens the wealth of expertise and insights of the PAB. To learn more about the amazing work and lives of all the members of the PAB, please visit:

[!\[\]\(0f848bbd71cef6b345273b16f905912a_img.jpg\) Meet the PAB](#)

Thank You to Our Partners

2025 was a difficult year for children, families, and advocates. Just as the ABC Coalition would not be able to do the work that we do without the invaluable contributions and leadership of each member of the Parent and Caregiver Advisory Board, we are similarly indebted to our partner organizations for their allyship and amplification of the PAB’s work. We would like to thank ABC Coalition member organizations and our many cross-coalition partners, and Share Our Strength for their generous support of the PAB.



PAB Member **Kali Daugherty** on Capitol Hill for ZERO TO THREE’s Strolling Thunder action.



PAB Member **Raegan Selden** (right) caught up with ABC co-leads Elisa Minoff and Juliana Zhou after a long day of speaking to lawmakers in DC alongside RESULTS Fellows.

..... PAB in Action

LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT

Raegan Selden's story was uplifted in Rep. Rosa DeLauro's statement during a [press conference](#) reintroducing the [American Family Act](#), that would make permanent the expanded, monthly CTC.

Huong Vu, Joseph Yusuf, Raegan Selden, and Tia Simmons recorded [1-minute videos](#) urging Congress to protect Medicaid, protect SNAP, and permanently expand the CTC in the budget reconciliation process.

Carolyn Hill, Chloe Medina, Kali Daugherty, Raegan Selden, Stephan Palmer, and Tia Simmons—along with ABC Coalition partner organizations—met with eight GOP House and Senate offices throughout Spring 2025 to educate lawmakers on the importance of an expanded CTC as part of a package of supports that improve child and family well-being.

The PAB released a [statement](#) expressing their outrage and disappointment in response to the tax and budget bill signed into law by President Trump on July 4.

PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

Chloe Medina and Huong Vu participated in a virtual parent convening to share how organizations and coalitions can protect and defend children in immigrant families.

Huong Vu joined the Aspen Institute Financial Security Program's Person-Centered Community of Practice (PCCP) as community leader.

Kali Daugherty and daughter Dahlia represented represent Wisconsin in ZERO TO THREE's [Strolling Thunder](#) action calling on Congress to prioritize babies and their families.

Raegan Selden joined RESULTS Fellows' on their Hill Day to urge lawmakers to invest in economic security for children and their families by expanding the CTC.

Eboni Brown participated in the inaugural Leadership + Advocacy Cohort sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund (CDF).

Joseph Yusuf participated in CSSP's Creating Actionable and Real Solutions (CARES) Convening to discuss way to advance youth-driven and youth-centered policy solutions that ensure young people are supported in their communities.

The PAB has been meeting with partner organizations including the Children's Defense Fund throughout the fall of 2025 to lay the groundwork for a parent organizing and mobilization campaign in early 2026, to continue building grassroots momentum for the CTC and an inclusive child allowance.

Acknowledgements

2025 Parent and Caregiver Advisory Board Members

Eboni Brown
Kaleena “Kali” Daugherty
Carolyn Hill
Chloe Medina
Lupe Mendoza
Stephan Palmer
Raegen Selden
Tia Simmons
Huong Vu
Joseph Yusuf

**Thank you for your unwavering commitment
and tireless work with the
Automatic Benefit for Children Coalition.
We are truly grateful for your dedication.**



For More Information, Please Contact

Elisa Minoff, Dir. of Economic Security, Senior Fellow in Policy History.....elisa.minoff@cssp.org
Liz Squibb, Senior Associate.....liz.squibb@cssp.org
Juliana Zhou, Policy Analyst.....juliana.zhou@cssp.org



**Center for the
Study of
Social Policy**
Ideas into Action