

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



1ST SESSION OF THE
118TH CONGRESS



@FFCONGRESS

futureforumcaucus-allred.house.gov/

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A NOTE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS	3
NEW CAUCUS MEMBERS	4
MEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS	5
LETTERS ISSUED	7
CAUCUS ENDORSED BILLS	8
YOUTH EVENTS	9



A NOTE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Established in 2015, Future Forum is a generational Caucus focused on issues important to younger Americans. Our work is guided by three core principles: Bridging the divide between youth and their government, engaging with and empowering young voters, and inspiring the next generation of leaders in public service within the halls of Congress and across the country.

Since its inception, we have grown to a historic 53-member strong Caucus. In the first session of the 118th Congress, our Caucus formalized itself by transitioning from a Chair Model to a four-equally split Co-Chair Model. We were also thrilled to welcome our first sole Caucus Executive Director to advance our Caucus priorities and strategically execute our goals.

Despite the threat of a government shutdown in 2023, Future Forum Members put people over politics. We rolled up our sleeves and voted to protect policies that aim to improve the livelihoods of Americans, young people included. We stood strong against efforts to undo student loan debt relief, protected the health care rights of women across the country, and continued to call attention to issues impacting young Americans, including housing affordability, climate change, LGBTQI+ rights, and gun violence.

In 2024, Future Forum will continue to meet with young folks across the country to help inform our policies and secure wins. We invite you to uplift our efforts and policies by supporting Future Forum Members in their respective districts and the Capitol because when we fight, we win!

Sincerely,



REP. COLIN ALLRED (TX-32)
CO-CHAIR OF COMMUNICATIONS



REP. DARREN SOTO (FL-09)
CO-CHAIR OF POLICY & PROGRAMS



REP. HALEY STEVENS (MI-11)
CO-CHAIR OF ADMINISTRATION AND
MEMBERSHIP



REP. BRITTANY PETTERSEN (CO-07)
FRESHMAN REPRESENTATIVE

NEW CAUCUS MEMBERS

In the first session of the 118th Congress, the Future Forum Caucus reached a record size of **53 Members**. Our members from across the country are dedicated to amplifying the voices of young Americans every day.

#FutureForum



REP. MCCLELLAN (VA-04)



REP. BOWMAN (NY-16)



REP. PETTERSEN (CO-07)



REP. CARAVEO (CO-08)



REP. CROCKETT (TX-30)



REP. TOKUDA (HI-02)



REP. VASQUEZ (NM-02)



REP. GARCIA (CA-42)



REP. DELUZIO (PA-17)



REP. FROST (FL-10)



REP. SYKES (OH-13)



REP. MAGAZINER (RI-02)



REP. MENENDEZ (NJ-08)



REP. MCGARVEY (KY-03)



REP. NICKEL (NC-13)



REP. RAMIREZ (IL-03)



REP. SCHOLTEN (MI-03)



REP. LANDSMAN (OH-01)



REP. SORENSEN (IL-17)



REP. AMO (RI-01)



MEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

LGBTQ RIGHTS

All Americans should be able to live without fear of discrimination no matter who they love or how they identify. Future Forum met with Hannah Bristol, Senior Advisor in the White House Office of Public Engagement, to discuss how we can continue to work with young people and our LGBTQ community. (March 2023)

GUN VIOLENCE

Gun violence is the leading cause of death for young people. Future Forum members met with Rep. Lucy McBath and community leaders who stand against gun violence to discuss how we can continue to build on our efforts to save lives. (April 2023)



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI is transforming our world, and Future Forum members met with Google and the University of Florida to learn about the innovations and capabilities of AI, and how it's being implemented in the educational curriculum. (May 2023)

HOMEOWNERSHIP

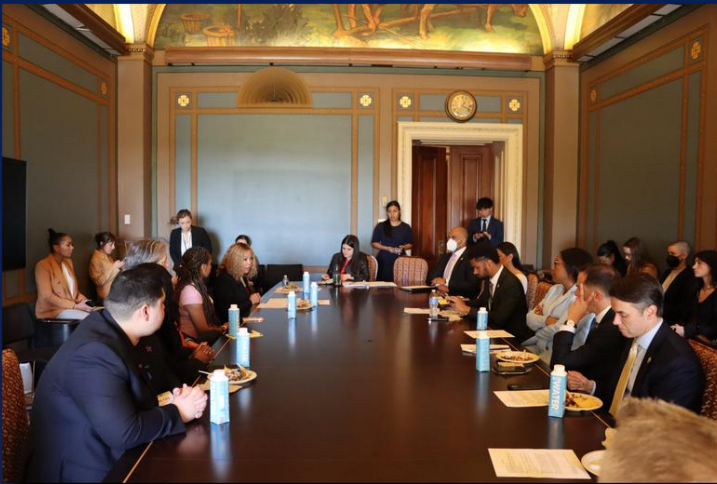
Homeownership is part of the American dream but can feel out of reach for so many young folks. Future Forum members met with the National Housing Resource Center, the National Housing Conference, and Zillow to discuss removing barriers to homeownership for young adults. (June 2023)



MEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

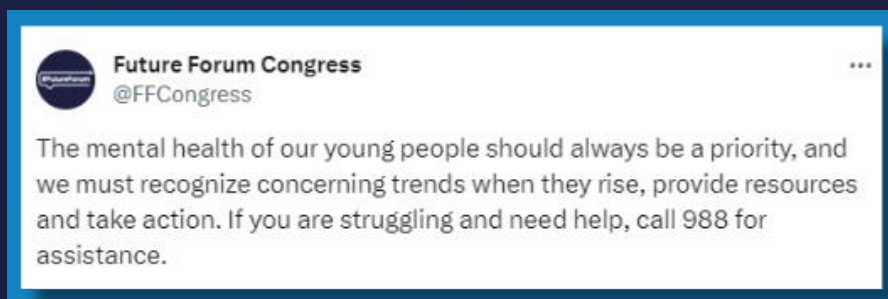
MENTAL HEALTH

Social media helps young Americans connect, but it also can bring pressure and impact mental health. Future Forum members heard from Meta, the Child Mind Institute, the Wellesley Centers for Women, and GlobalMarks on how Congress can protect young adults and their mental health in the digital age. (July 2023)



STUDENT LOANS

Student debt should not be a roadblock to economic success for younger Americans. Future Forum members heard from the U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, and the Institute for College Access & Success on how we can ensure everyone gets access to the post-secondary education and skills they need to succeed. (September 2023)





LETTERS ISSUED

- ▶ Letter to Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro requesting the **inclusion of funding to support Future Forum Member requests for programs** that aim to improve the livelihood of young Americans. (March 29, 2023)
- ▶ Letter to Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member Quigley requesting the **inclusion of \$70 Million to support the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Counseling Assistance Program (HUD-CAP)**. (June 28, 2023)
- ▶ Letter to Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Chairman Aderholt **requesting \$2.7 billion for the Federal Student Aid Office to support borrowers in anticipation of student loan repayments** that resumed in October 2023. (July 13, 2023)
- ▶ Letter to Secretary Cardona and Deputy Secretary Marten seeking **clarification on the implementation of resuming student loan payments** to ensure individuals are sufficiently prepared (September 29, 2023)
- ▶ Letter to Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Chair Rodgers, and Ranking Member Pallone **requesting swift reform on deceptive ticketing issues**, which often target young people. (December 15, 2023)



Future Forum Congress
@FFCongress

Higher education should be affordable & accessible. As student loan payments resume, @FFCongress urged @usedgov to clarify their implementation efforts to ensure folks have up to date information. This will help younger Americans properly prepare for their financial futures.



CAUCUS ENDORSED BILLS

- **H.R. 4444, Office of Young Americans - Rep. Darren Soto:** First Caucus-led bill to create an Office of Young Americans within the Executive Office of the President to ensure young Americans engage in the federal government and identify issues that primarily and substantially impact them.
- **H.R. 5936, The Protecting Students' Civil Rights Act - Rep. Pete Aguilar:** This bill aims to address inequity within American colleges and universities by requiring Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to have at least one staff member designated to process Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 reports of students.
- **H.R. 1381, American Dream Employment Act of 2023 - Rep. Pete Aguilar:** This bill would allow Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) recipients to work in the U.S. Congress. Under current law, employment in the House of Representatives and Senate is only available to U.S. Citizens or lawful permanent residents with the intent of naturalizing.
- **H.R. 3112, The No Hungry Kids in School Act - Rep. Pete Aguilar:** This bill would expand the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to allow states to provide free meals to all schools in eligible districts, rather than just school districts. Doing so would provide no-cost meals to students and remove the need for burdensome paperwork from parents/guardians currently needed to fill out.
- **H.R.3183, Enhance Access to SNAP Act of 2023 - Rep. Jimmy Gomez:** The bill aims to permanently remove barriers and expand access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility for students enrolled in college half-time or more.
- **H.R. 3420, My Body, My Data Act - Rep. Sara Jacobs:** The bill aims to create a new national standard to protect reproductive and sexual health data to ensure those getting, seeking, or facilitating reproductive care are not placed at risk and prevent their digital footprints from being weaponized against them.
- **H.R. 5804, Mental Health Infrastructure Improvement Act - Rep. Derek Kilmer:** The bill aims to address the shortage in mental health care access and the emergency department boarding crisis by establishing a new loan program at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to fund the construction or renovation of mental health and substance use disorder treatment facilities.
- **H.R. 2621, Honoring Vocational Education Act - Rep. Hillary Scholten:** A bill that aims to add post-secondary non-degree awards as a level of educational attainment to the Current Population Survey as it currently fails to recognize individuals who have attended post-secondary institutions but have yet to receive a degree license recognized by the State or Federal Government.
- **H.R. 4310, The Youth Poisoning Protection Act - Rep. Lori Trahan:** The bill aims to ban the consumer sale of products containing the chemical sodium nitrite at a concentration of 10% or higher, as they can be lethal when ingested. Since the pandemic, there has been a devastating surge in the use of high-concentration sodium nitrite for suicide.
- **H.R. 5244, Fusion Energy Act - Rep. Lori Trahan:** A bill that aims to codify the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Spring vote would establish a regulatory framework for fusion energy systems under the byproducts materials framework. Fusion energy can drive down costs for families struggling with fluctuating energy processes, reduce carbon footprint, and ensure future generations have a livable planet.
- **H.R. 3008, Drug Shortage Prevention Act - Rep. Sara Jacobs:** The bill aims to require manufacturers to notify the FDA if they experience six consecutive weeks of an increase in product demand to minimize drug shortages and improve the FDA's predictive ability and responsiveness creating more transparency of the demand for medication and minimizing drug shortages.



YOUTH EVENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TOWN HALL

Future Forum members Rep. Soto, Rep. Stevens, and Rep. Frost met with University of Central Florida students to discuss how folks can join the fight to preserve our environment. Future Forum members are making historic investments against the climate crisis through legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act. (February 2023)



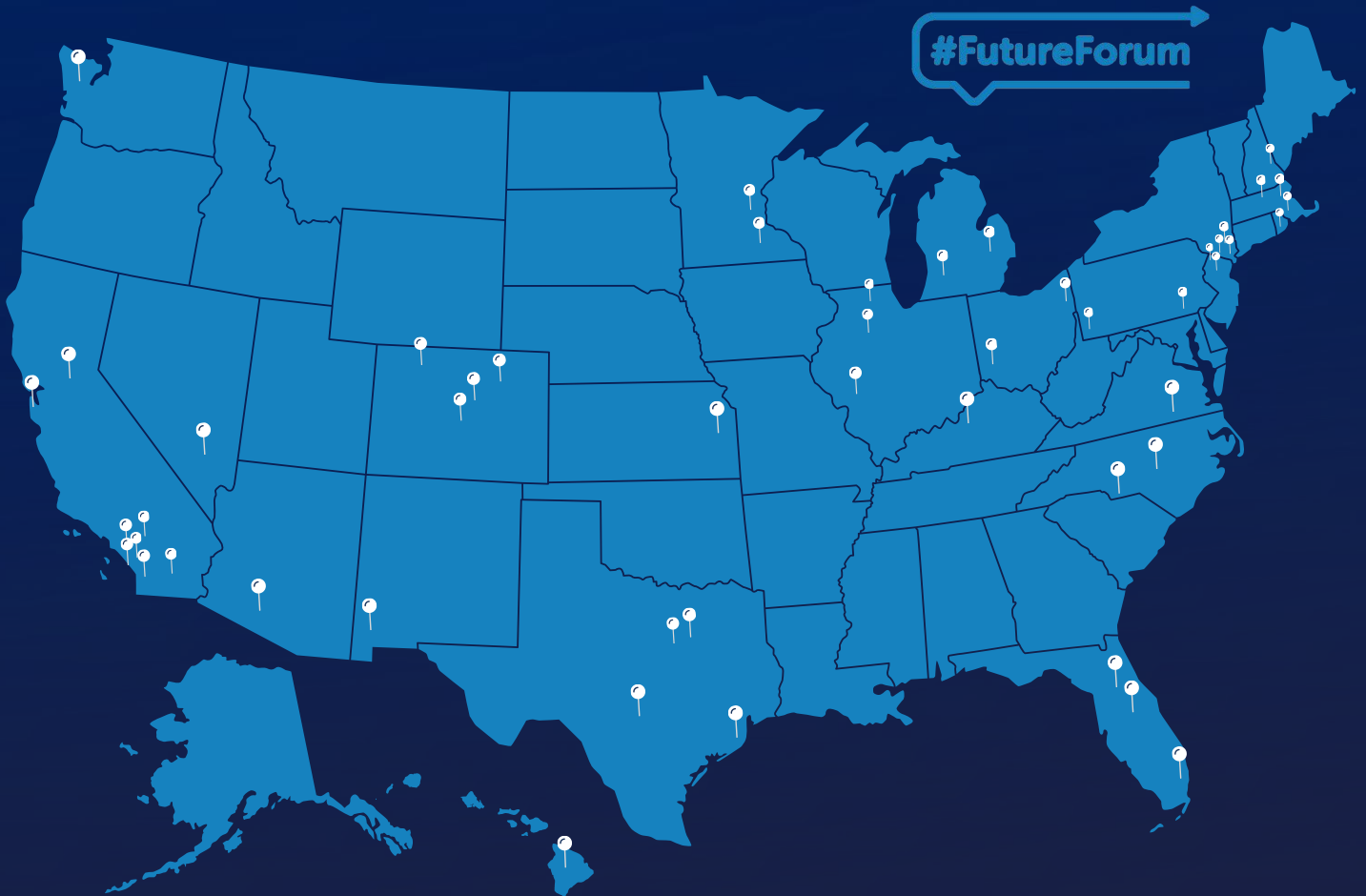
FUTURE FORUM YOUTH CONGRESS

Young people's voices belong in Congress as much as anyone else's. Rep. Soto and the Future Forum Caucus hosted the third annual Youth Congress in July 2023, where youth participants immersed themselves in real legislative proceedings and experienced a day as a Member of Congress. They engaged in Committee debates, House Floor votes, and learned about the legislative process. (July 2023)

MEET AND GREET WITH YOUTH STAKEHOLDERS

Future Forum met with youth organizations doing incredible work nationwide to empower our next generation of leaders, including New Deal For You and Voters of Tomorrow. We stand committed to bridging the divide between young Americans and their government and are proud of the work they are doing. (November 2023)





@FFCONGRESS

futureforumcaucus-allred.house.gov/