

THE INFORMATION YOU NEED

2024 Hill Day

February 6th, 2023



NATIONAL NETWORK
 for **YOUTH**

Welcome

- Please introduce yourself in chat--name, pronouns, organization, city, and state + an emoji to show how your day is going so far 🥺 😁 😭 😬 😡 😊 😜
- Please ask questions in chat throughout the presentation
- These slides and the recording will be available on our website after the presentation is over
- Please complete the survey at the end so we can improve and serve your needs

AGENDA

01. Introduction

02. Scheduling + Preparing for Hill Meetings

03. Effective Advocacy Strategies

04. Congressional Asks for Hill Day

05. Questions

About National Network for Youth

NN4Y is on a mission to transform system so that no young person in America experiences homelessness.

NATIONAL NETWORK



for YOUTH

collaborate • advocate • transform

NN4Y works youth who have experienced homelessness, service providers, and systems to accelerate progress in ending homelessness and human trafficking. Together, we envision a future in which all young people have a safe place to call home with endless opportunities to achieve their fullest potential.

WEBSITE:

<https://nn4youth.org/>

OUR WORK:

- Federal Policy Advocacy
- Youth + Youth Adult Partnerships
- Community-Based Solutions

NATIONAL NETWORK



for YOUTH

collaborate • advocate • transform

Scheduling + Preparing for Hill Meetings



2024 Hill Day: Friday, March 1st 9 AM to 12 PM

- When scheduling your meetings, request to have the Member of Congress present
- The person you are meeting with (staffer and/or Member of Congress) may not be available during the allotted 9 AM to 12 PM ET - it is common for folks to have meetings at other days/times during the Summit
- For virtual attendees, you should schedule your meetings via Zoom and the meetings can be anytime, including the week of or week after the Summit - the key is to have the meetings and advocate
- We will have paper copies of Fact Sheets for you to hand out to your meetings

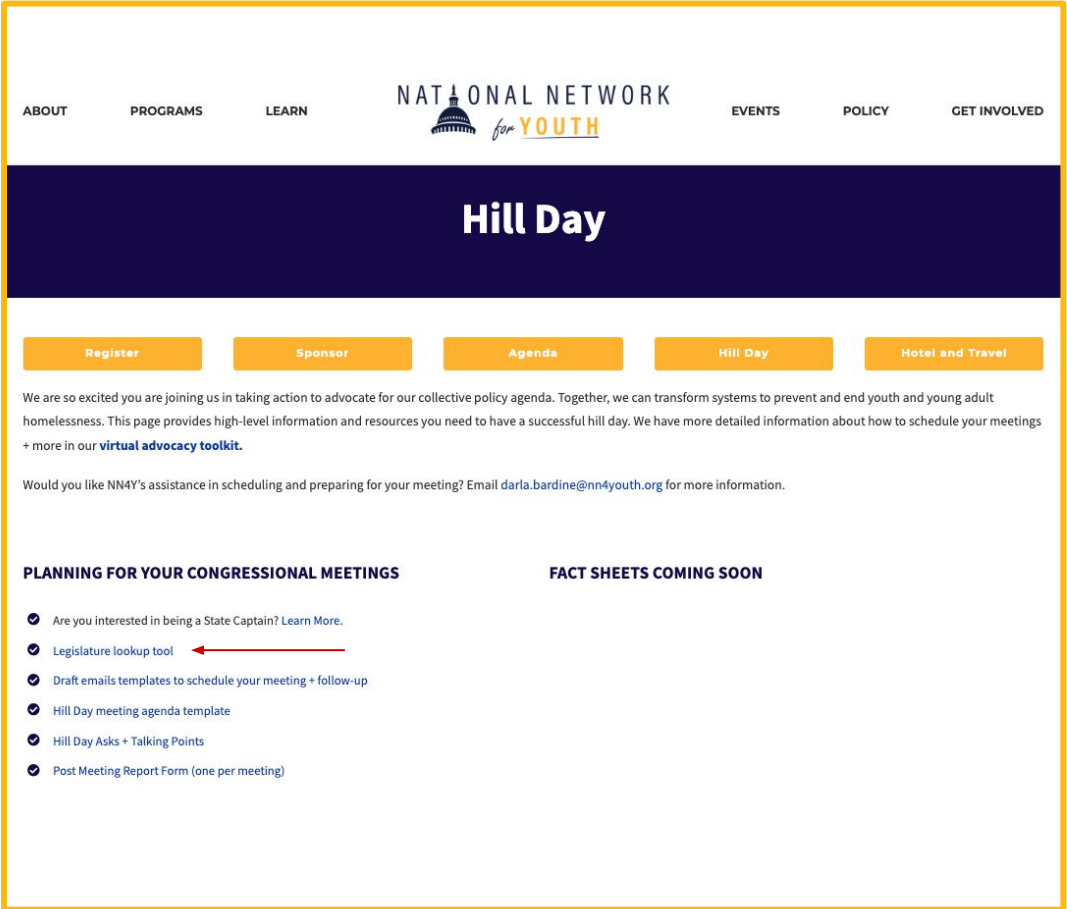
State Captains

State Captain's Role

- The State Captain will be responsible for coordinating both **SENATE** meetings for all registrants in their state.
 - Once the Senate meetings are scheduled, the State Captain will schedule a prep meeting with all registrants from their state
- They are **NOT** responsible for scheduling the meetings with the **HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES** from their state. We do encourage them to schedule their House meeting and invite others from the state who are in the same district to join.
 - We encourage all attendees to schedule their own House meetings!

First Name	Last Name	STATE
Beth	Holger	Minnesota
Cheyenne	Nichols	Oregon
Marni	Gangel	Pennsylvania
Joli	Guenther	Wisconsin
Tedd	Peso	Illinois
Kirstin	Murphy	Michigan
Amy	Olsen	Oklahoma
Josh	Selo	California

Don't see your state up here and want to be a State Captain? Email heather.lavoie@nn4youth.org!



Scheduling Your Meetings

1. Identify your U.S. Senators + U.S. House Representative
2. Call or email to schedule meeting
3. Specify the meeting is in person
4. Ask for the elected official to join
5. Be clear what you want to meet about (e.g. if you want to talk about RHYA, specify HHS and not HUD)

Tips!

- Research who you are meeting with
- Prepare talking points, assign roles, and have an agenda
- Plan for 15 minutes, but be prepared for a 30 minute meeting
- Take notes



Make sure you have a good internet connection



- Ensure youth have equal access to advocacy. To do so, you may need to:
 - role play an advocacy meeting
 - provide written materials of policies/recommendations to be discussed
- provide a laptop, quiet space, or Wifi



Draft Meeting Agenda

- Thank the Member of Congress and/or staff for the meeting.
- Introductions.
- Give information about your organization and the work you do.
- Introduce the purpose of the meeting/the ask.
- Make your points in support of your ask.
- Make a clear ask.
- Thank them for the meeting and tell them you will follow-up.
- Grab a picture to share on social media.

Make a copy of [this agenda](#) to plan your meetings.

Every meeting should have **at least one clear ask**

The Ask



Debrief After the Meeting

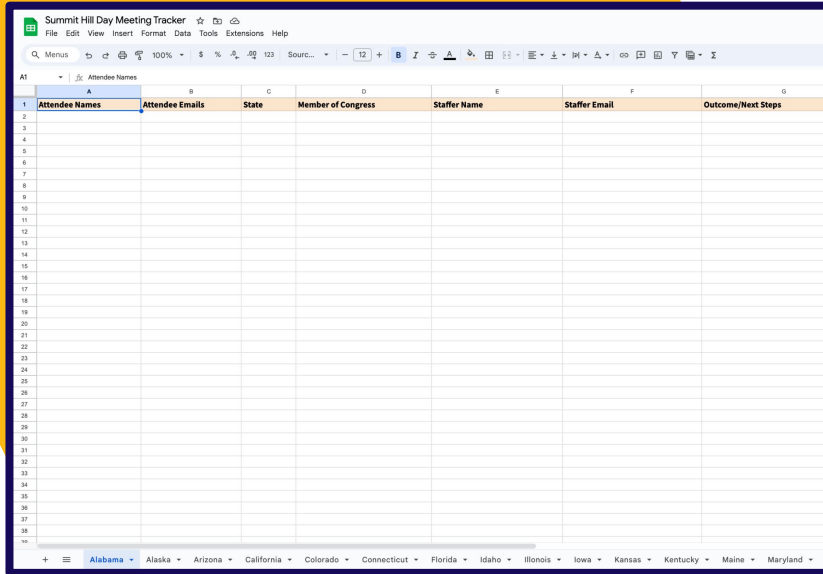
- Questions to discuss together:
 - How do you feel after that meeting?
 - What do you think went well?
 - What could we do better next time?
 - What are our next steps? *e.g. Thank you email to policymaker + other follow-up*



Enter your meetings into the spreadsheet once they are scheduled

Summit Hill Day Tracker

- State Captain's should add their teams Senate meetings
- People should add the meetings with their Representatives



The screenshot shows a Google Sheet titled "Summit Hill Day Meeting Tracker". The spreadsheet has the following columns: Attendee Names, Attendee Emails, State, Member of Congress, Staffer Name, Staffer Email, and Outcome/Next Steps. The rows are numbered 1 through 30. The bottom of the sheet shows a dropdown menu for states, including Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, and Maryland.

1	Attendee Names	Attendee Emails	State	Member of Congress	Staffer Name	Staffer Email	Outcome/Next Steps
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Please submit a separate form for each meeting you attended.

Please fill out and submit the form below about your Capitol Hill meeting. If you have any questions, please contact member@nn4youth.org.

Name *

First

Last

Email *

Please enter your email, so we can follow up with you.

State *

Tell us about your meeting

Member of Congress Name *

Did you meet directly with the Congress person or a member(s) of their staff? *

- Congress person
- Staff Member
- Congress person + Staff

Name(s) & title(s) of Congressional staff present: *

Staff Email(s)

Which of the following priorities did you discuss (select all that apply): *

- The Runaway and Homeless Youth + Trafficking Prevention Act
- Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act
- Homeless Children and Youth Act
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Student Rule Fix

Report Back After Your Meetings

nn4youth.org/policy/hill-day-meeting-report

Complete one form per
meeting

Resources for Your Hill Meetings

<https://nn4youth.org/national-summit-hill-day/hill-day/>

PLANNING FOR YOUR CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS

- ✓ Are you interested in being a State Captain? [Learn More.](#)
- ✓ Legislature lookup tool
- ✓ Draft emails templates to schedule your meeting + follow-up
- ✓ Hill Day meeting agenda template
- ✓ Hill Day Asks + Talking Points
- ✓ Post Meeting Report Form (one per meeting)



Effective Advocacy Strategies

Effective Advocacy and Storytelling



Engages the heart

Share a story to appeal to their emotions.



Influences a legislator's mind

Provide practical and relatable information to educate them on the issue.



Gets your legislator to consider their political health

What is the cost to society for not helping youth experiencing homelessness?

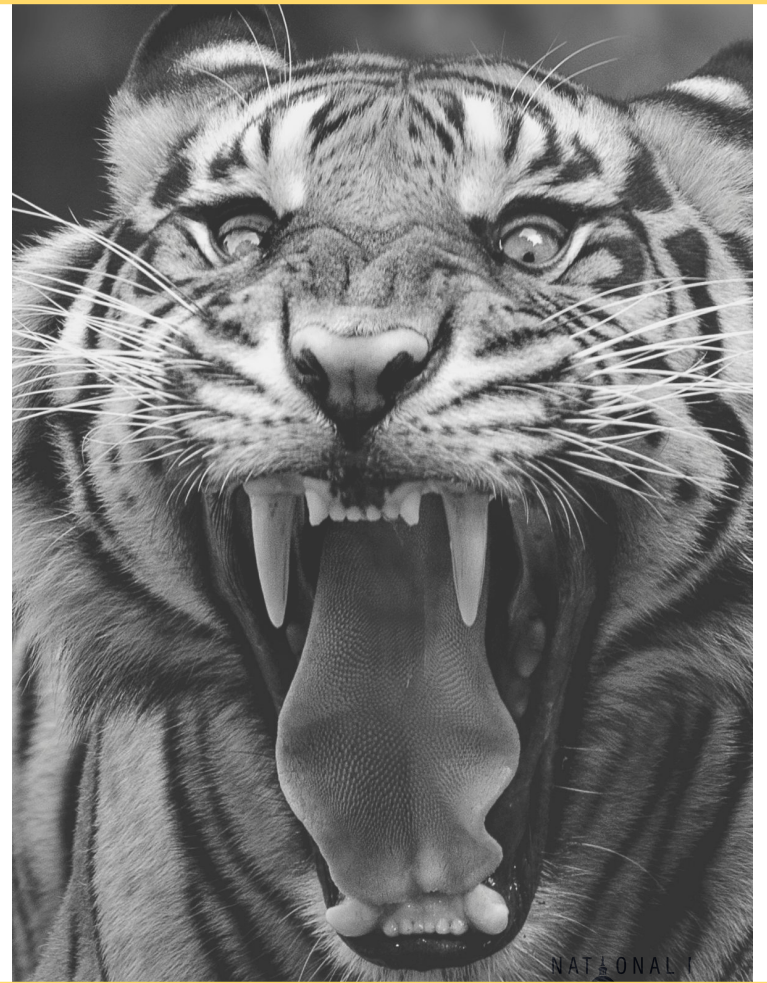
ROAR Advocacy Strategies + Tactics

Research - be knowledgeable and prepared

Outreach - reach out to meet with others working in the issue you are focused on and your policymaker targets

Advocacy is about influencing federal policymakers to change current policies

Relationship Building is about making personal and professional connections with policymakers





Congressional Asks for Hill Day

Current Context for U.S. Congress

- New two-year Congressional session- the 118th Session (2023-2025)
 - All previous legislation needs introduced
- Democrats control the Senate and Executive Branch
 - 48 Democrats + VP Kamala Harris
 - 49 Republicans
 - 3 Independents - skew Democrat
- Republicans control the House
 - 222 Republicans and 212 Democrats
 - Strict rules regarding funding/budget increase
- **This means a bipartisan approach is especially important**



Current Focus for U.S. Congress



HOUSE AND SENATE

- War in Gaza
- War in Ukraine
- Immigration policy
- Annual appropriations

**The fact it is an election year also impacts the focus for Congress*

Your asks for NN4Y 2024 Hill Day

Runaway and Homeless Children + Youth Trafficking Prevention Act of 2023

cosponsor in the House and Senate

Fiscal Year 2025 appropriation requests to prevent and end youth homelessness

Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2023

co-sponsor in the House and champion in the Senate

LIHTC “Student Rule” Fix

no cost policy solution to increase access to affordable housing for youth



Runaway and Homeless Children + Youth Trafficking Prevention Act of 2023

The following vital programs are made possible by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA):

The following vital programs are made possible by RHYA:

01

STREET OUTREACH

provides education, prevention, treatment, counseling, connection, and referrals to vital services to prevent sexual abuse and human trafficking for youth at-risk of and experiencing trafficking and homelessness

02

BASIC CENTER

provides temporary housing with, counseling, therapeutic family intervention, connection to education, and supportive services for minors experiencing homelessness for youth under the age of 18

03

TRANSITIONAL LIVING

provides longer-term housing with supportive services, including Maternity Group Homes for pregnant and parenting youth

04

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

24/7 national phone, text, and online communications system which connects youth and families in crisis with prevention services and reunifies families

05

NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

provides training and technical assistance to all RHYA grantees

Runaway and Homeless Youth + Trafficking Prevention Act of 2023 (S.3125/H.R. 6041)

RHYTPA makes important updates to the current RHYA program:

- Includes new provisions to combat trafficking and prohibit discrimination
 - Increases the length of stays in Basic Centers from 21 to 30+ days
 - Increases grant award amount and overall program funding
 - Increase allowable age for Transitional Living Programs
- Creates new Prevention Services Programs
 - Fixes the 20 bed per building issue in regulation
 - Allows youth from other systems to be served by RHYA programs if the other system isn't housing them

Runaway and Homeless Children + Youth Trafficking Prevention Act of 2023 (S.3125/H.R.6041)

CURRENT CHAMPIONS: U.S. Representatives Bonamici (D-OR), Bacon (R-NE), Nunn (R-IA), and McGarvey (D-KY)
U.S. Senators Durbin (D-IL) and Collins (R-ME)

CURRENT CO-SPONSOR: U.S. Representatives Fitzpatrick (R-PA), DeSaulnier (D-CA), Lofgren (D-CA), Peltola (D-AK), and Lawler (R-NY)
U.S. Senators Murkowski (R-AK), Sullivan (R-AK), Duckworth (D-IL)

ASK: We need more co-sponsors of the bills, especially from the Senate Judiciary Committee and House Education and Labor Committee.



FY 2025 appropriation requests to prevent and end youth homelessness

Health and Human Services (HHS)

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) Program

Youth experiencing homelessness face a particularly steep climb to adulthood. They are not plugged into the networks of support needed for healthy development. RHYA programs provide the support and connection youth need to successfully transition to adulthood. These programs include short and long term housing options, street outreach, and supportive services. RHYA programs are more cost-effective than other systems (child welfare, policing, and court systems) that youth experiencing homelessness encounter while homeless. RHYA programs have been chronically underfunded, with only 25% of qualified applicants receiving funding.

For FY25, appropriate \$300 million for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) program to:

- Support approximately 1,400 RHYA projects in communities across the United States that meet our young people where they are. These youth are not eligible for HUD homeless assistance due to HUD's narrow definition of homelessness and the hidden nature of homelessness among youth.
- Allow approximately 49,034 young people access housing and connect with 70,000 youth via street outreach and drop-in centers. This is far from meeting the need, but would significantly increase our country's capacity to end youth homelessness by doubling the number of young people served. It would also provide a cost savings of more than \$12 billion in fiscal costs and over \$30 billion in costs to society.
- Ensure that our young people are not left out of national efforts to end homelessness. Successfully addressing youth homelessness saves money and dramatically reduces chronic adult homelessness.

Department of Education (ED)

McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is the only federal education program that removes barriers to school enrollment, attendance, and success caused by homelessness. This federal funding goes to State Education Agencies, who then make subgrants to Local Education Agencies. These EHCY subgrants are used for outreach and identification, enrollment assistance, transportation, school records transfer, immunization referrals, tutoring, counseling, school supplies, professional development for educators and community organizations, and referrals for community services.

For FY25, appropriate \$800 million for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program

- **Only 24% of schools receive EHCY subgrants.** This lack of funding limits the ability of schools to identify homeless students, ensure their access to school, and connect them to community support.
- **A bipartisan amendment to the American Rescue Plan Act provided \$800 million** specifically dedicated to support the identification, enrollment, and school participation of children and youth experiencing homelessness, including through wrap-around services. These funds, known as American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth Funds (ARP-HCY), have reached 44% of school districts to date - nearly double the number of school districts reached with previous annual funding allocations.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is a competitive 2 year-grant program through HUD that provides funding for local Continuum of Care (CoC) to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied, pregnant and parenting youth. YHDP projects work in partnership with community stakeholders and require communities to convene Youth Action Boards.

For FY25, appropriate \$100 million for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) with no more than \$2 million for Technical Assistance

- 97 CoCs have received YHDP funding, with 387 total CoCs across the country. We need continued funding until every CoC has received this carve out of funding to serve youth experiencing homelessness.
- NN4Y strongly urges HUD to require every CoC to implement lessons learned by YHDP communities and to implement YHDP project outcomes to all CoC youth-funded projects.

HUD Continued

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)

ESG funds may be used for street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing assistance, and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

For FY25, appropriate \$300 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program

- Improve the number and quality of emergency housing options for individuals and families experiencing homelessness;
- Rapidly re-house individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and
- Prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless.

A photograph of three young women laughing and hugging outdoors. The woman on the left is wearing a yellow shirt and is being carried piggyback by the woman in the middle, who is wearing a striped shirt. The woman on the right is wearing a red shirt. They are all smiling and laughing. The background shows a building and palm trees under a bright sky.

Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2023

Homeless Children and Youth Act 2023

Pass The Homeless Children and Youth Act to Align Federal Definitions of Homelessness

Youth experiencing homelessness stay wherever they can, frequently moving between living situations. Research has found that homelessness among young people is a fluid experience – they may be sleeping in a car one night, at a shelter the next, and on an acquaintance’s floor the following week. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) current prioritized definition of chronic adult homelessness reflects the ways adults – not youth – experience homelessness. **The same young person may be considered “homeless” and eligible to access services under other definitions and set of programs, but not HUD.**

Congress should reintroduce and pass the Homeless Children and Youth Act to break generational cycles of homelessness, restore local decision-making, and meet the unique developmental needs of YYA.

BILL: [H.R.5221 - Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2023](#)

CURRENT CHAMPIONS: U.S. Representatives Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ-11), Bill Posey (R-FL-08), Delia Ramirez (D-IL-03), and Don Bacon (R-NE-02)

CURRENT CO-SPONSORS: Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]; Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]; Rep. Dean, Madeleine [D-PA-4]; Rep. Kim, Andy [D-NJ-3]; Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]; Rep. Scanlon, Mary Gay [D-PA-5]; Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]; Rep. Boyle, Brendan F. [D-PA-2]; Rep. Hill, J. French [R-AR-2]; Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-3]; Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-16]; Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]; Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-9].

ASK: We need the bill to be introduced in the Senate and we need more Representatives in the House to co-sponsor.

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Student Rule

FIX the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Student Rule



- **Current problem:** Youth can't live in Low- Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) funded housing and be a full time student. This means that young people either have to attend college part-time or not at all- both of which results in youth not attending or completing higher education institutions.
- **Solution:** There is simple no-cost legislation that would fix this issue so that youth can live in LIHTC funded housing and still attend college full time.
- **Ask:** Pass no-cost legislation to fix this issue
 - *Housing for Homeless Students Act*
 - *Affordable Housing and Credit Improvement Act*

Committees and Subcommittees of Importance

Senate Judiciary Committee

RHYA Reauthorization - Committee of Jurisdiction

DEMOCRATS

CHAIR- Durbin, IL

Blumenthal, CT

Booker, NJ

Coons, DE

Hirono, HI

Klobuchar, MN

Ossoff, GA

Padilla, CA

Welch, VT

Whitehouse, RI

Butler, CA

REPUBLICANS

RANKING MEMBER: Graham, SC

Blackburn, TN

Cornyn, TX

Cotton, AR

Cruz, TX

Grassley, IA

Hawley, MO

Kennedy, LA

Lee, UT

Tillis, NC

⇨ **We need 1 R on
committee for
the committee to
bring it for a vote**

House Education & Workforce Committee

RHYA Reauthorization - Committee of Jurisdiction

REPUBLICANS

CHAIR - Foxx, NC

Miller, IL	Smucker, PA	Wilson, SC
Steel, CA	Owens, UT	Thompson, PA
Letlow, LA	Good, VA	Walberg, MI
Estes, KS	McClain, MI	Grothman, WI
Kiley, CA	James, MI	Stefanik, NY
Bean, FL	Chavez-Deremer, OR	Allen, GA
Burlison, MO	Williams, NY	Banks, IN
Moran, TX	Houchin, IN	Comer, KY

DEMOCRATS

RANKING MEMBER: Scott VA

Grijalva, AZ	DeSaulnier, CA	Stevens, MI
Courtney, CT	Norcross, NJ	Fernandez, NM
Sablan, CNMI	Jayapal, WA	Manning, NC
Wilson, FL	Wild, PA	Mrvan, IA
Bonamici, OR	McBath, GA	Bowman, NY
Takano, CA	Hayes, CT	
Adams, NC	Omar, MN	

House Committee on Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

REPUBLICANS

CHAIR: Robert Aderholt (AL)
Mike Simpson (ID)
Andy Harris (MD)
Chuck Fleischmann (TN)
John Moolenaar (MI)
Julia Letlow (LA)
Andrew Clyde (GA)
Jake LaTurner (KS)
Jake Ellzey (TX)
Juan Ciscomani (AZ)

DEMOCRATS

RANKING MEMBER: Rosa DeLauro (CT)
Steny Hoyer (MD)
Barbara Lee (CA)
Mark Pocan (WI)
Lois Frankel (FL)
Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ)
Josh Harder (CA)

Senate Committee on Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

DEMOCRATS

CHAIR: Tammy Baldwin (Wisconsin)
Patty Murray (Washington)
Richard Durbin (Illinois)
Jack Reed (Rhode Island)
Jeanne Shaheen (New Hampshire)
Jeff Merkley (Oregon)
Brian Schatz (Hawaii)
Chris Murphy (Connecticut)
Joe Manchin (West Virginia)

REPUBLICANS

RANKING MEMBER: Shelley Moore Capito (West Virginia)
Lindsey Graham (South Carolina)
Jerry Moran (Kansas)
John Kennedy (Louisiana)
Cindy Hyde-Smith (Mississippi)
John Boozman (Arkansas)
Katie Britt (Alabama)
Marco Rubio (Florida)

House Committee on Appropriations

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

REPUBLICANS

CHAIR: Rep. Tom Cole (OK)
Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (FL)
Rep. Steve Womack (AR)
Rep. John Rutherford (FL)
Rep. Tony Gonzales (TX)
Rep. David Valadao (CA)
Rep. Ben Cline (VA)
Rep. Ryan Zinke (MT)
Rep. Juan Ciscomani (AZ)

DEMOCRATS

RANKING MEMBER: Rep. Mike Quigley (IL)
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ)
Rep. Norma Torres (CA)
Rep. Pete Aguilar (CA)
Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY)
Rep. Jennifer Wexton (VA)

Senate Committee on Appropriations

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

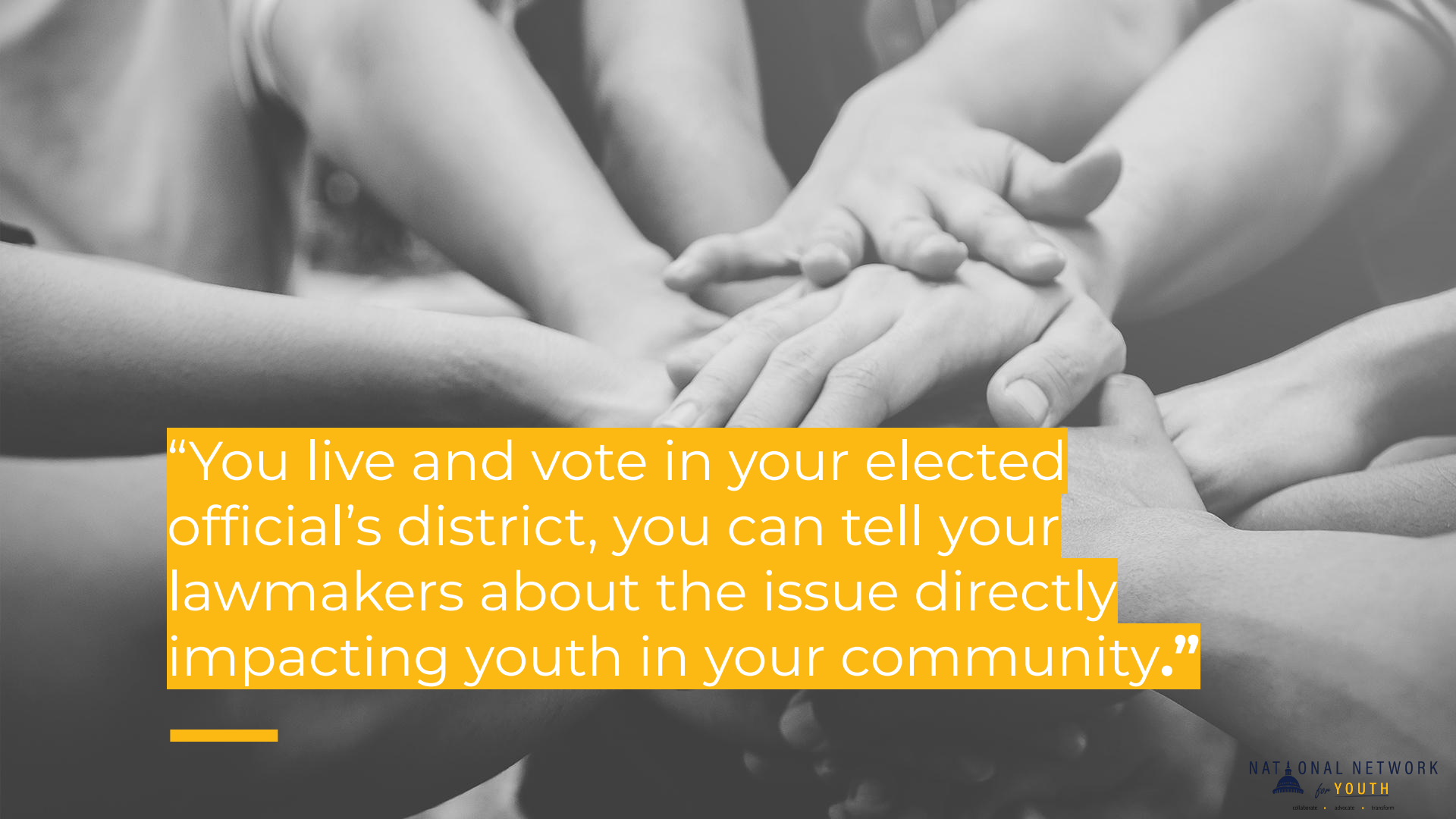
DEMOCRATS

CHAIR: Brian Schatz (Hawaii)
Patty Murray (Washington)
Richard Durbin (Illinois)
Jack Reed (Rhode Island)
Christopher Coons (Delaware)
Chris Murphy (Connecticut)
Joe Manchin (West Virginia)
Chris Van Hollen (Maryland)

Kyrsten Sinema (Independent- Arizona)

REPUBLICANS

RANKING MEMBER: Cindy Hyde-Smith (Mississippi)
Susan Collins (Maine)
John Boozman (Arkansas)
Shelley Moore Capito (West Virginia)
Lindsey Graham (South Carolina)
John Hoeven (North Dakota)
John Kennedy (Louisiana)
Jerry Moran (Kansas)



“You live and vote in your elected official’s district, you can tell your lawmakers about the issue directly impacting youth in your community.”



YOU ARE INVITED

Senate Congressional Briefing

WHEN: February 28th at 12:15pm

WHERE: U.S. Senate Room TBD

WHY: To discuss the Runaway and Homeless Youth + Trafficking Prevention Act of 2023

NN4Y's National Youth Advisory Council, Senator Durbin (D-IL), and Senator Collins (R-ME) will be speaking.

Questions?

Contact:

heather.lavoie@nn4youth.org
202.783.7949

Visit our website:

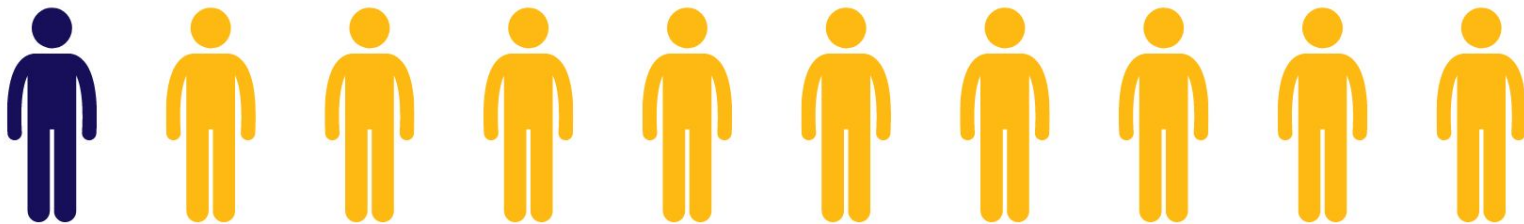
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One in 10 young adults ages 18-25 experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period.

**BECOME A
NN4Y MEMBER**

Join us to create systemic
change to prevent and
end youth homelessness.

LEARN MORE ONLINE

www.NN4YOUTH.org

NATIONAL NETWORK
 for YOUTH
collaborate • advocate • transform