

INVESTING IN ILLINOIS' FUTURE

Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) was founded in 2014 as the political advocacy arm of Save the Children and is the political voice for kids. Today, SCAN is working to mobilize more than **12,000 supporters in Illinois** to make sure every child in the United States has access to high-quality early childhood education and that no mother or child around the globe dies from a preventable disease or illness.

Our volunteer leadership network—based in the **Chicago metropolitan area, Bloomington-Normal and Peoria**—is engaging parents, teachers, medical professionals and local leaders who are passionate about advocating for kids. We also have active Student Ambassador Programs at **Bradley University, Illinois State University, Illinois Math & Science Academy, University of Chicago Lab School and Richwoods High School**. Learn more about how to get involved at www.SaveTheChildrenActionNetwork.org/Illinois.



Opportunities for All Children in Illinois

Investing in early childhood education and care is one of the most effective ways to break the cycle of poverty. These investments lay the foundation for success later in school and in life.

The Challenge

The environment and interactions children are exposed to during the first five years of life greatly influence their futures. Unfortunately, these programs are out of reach for many working families across the nation, **including in Illinois, where 41 percent of children live in poverty.**

By age 4, children in poverty are as many as 18 months behind other children. By age 5, a child's brain is nearly completely developed, so it's critical to provide high-quality early learning opportunities from birth until kindergarten.

The Solution

Two generational high-quality early learning and care programs offer real benefits not only to families, but to the entire country. A December 2016 report from Nobel Prize-winning University of Chicago economist James Heckman shows the rate of return on investments in early childhood development for children in high-quality programs can be 13 percent per child, per year due to improved outcomes in education, health, sociability, economic productivity and reduced crime.

We know that expanding access to high-quality education is the best way to close the growing opportunity gap in our country. That's why SCAN is continuing to work with Republicans and Democrats and coalition partners in Illinois to expand access to high-quality early childhood education and home visiting programs.

Helping Children Around the World Survive

Children all around the world deserve to survive until their fifth birthdays and beyond. Investing in the health of moms and kids reduces poverty, sparks economic growth, creates more secure nations and, saves lives.

The Challenge

Globally, 5.6 million children under age 5—nearly half of whom are infants—die each year from preventable causes such as pneumonia, malnutrition and malaria. More than 800 mothers die every day from problems related to their pregnancies. In too many cases, moms and kids around the world do not have access to the medical care or supplies they need to survive. This is heart breaking, but the good news is that because of leadership from the United States more moms and kids are surviving—and we can do even better.



The Solution

In the last 20 years, the number of mothers and kids dying from preventable diseases has dropped by half. Simple and inexpensive solutions, like basic medicine, thermometers and clean water, are saving lives. That's why SCAN is building bipartisan support for the Reach Every Mother and Child (Reach) Act, a bipartisan bill in the U.S. House and Senate which would help end the preventable deaths of mothers and children around the world.

Our Successes

With the help of our activist base in Illinois, we have made great progress in advancing our goals for children in the Prairie State and around the world.



Victories for Kids • 2017



230

visits to local, state and federal lawmaker offices



900,000

of messages to elected officials on behalf of kids



54,000

people engaged at **200** events

Looking Ahead

With elections coming up in 2018 at the federal, state and local levels, our work is needed now more than ever. We will continue to advocate to ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed. In 2018, we are focused on increasing access to high-quality early childhood education, child care and home visiting programs and gaining support among Illinois' congressional delegation for the Reach Act.

Children may only be 20 percent of our population, but they are 100 percent of our future. Investments in our kids are the best ones we can make.