



December 1, 2025

Majority Leader John Thune  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders,

On behalf of the Alliance for Opportunity and leading antipoverty scholars, we write to express our strong support for the Upward Mobility Act of 2025.

The Upward Mobility Act reflects a transformative shift in federal antipoverty policy—creating a safety net that advances the inherent dignity, potential, and purpose of every person. For decades, outdated programs have created barriers that trap individuals and families in cycles of dependency. This legislation offers a path forward that prioritizes work, opportunity, and upward mobility as the true measures of a successful safety net.

This bill will create Upward Mobility Grants that give states the opportunity to rethink how serve their citizens. By allowing states to consolidate fragmented antipoverty programs and reduce the penalties that discourage work and family formation, the bill promotes a safety net that empowers human flourishing rather than managing poverty. It reorients federal policy toward outcomes that matter: Stable employment, rising incomes, and stronger families.

States will be empowered to build on the recent work-focused safety net reform and consolidate funding streams from programs such as SNAP, TANF, and childcare subsidies into a unified framework focused on opportunity in five pilot states. States will gain authority to design benefit structures that reduce benefit cliffs, eliminate marriage penalties, and better coordinate services—while maintaining essential safeguards for civil rights, health and safety, labor standards, environmental protection, and religious freedom. The bill's requirement for rigorous third-party evaluation, including independent measurement of marginal effective tax rates, earnings, and employment outcomes, ensures accountability and transparency for both states and taxpayers. The pilot allows states to demonstrate how integration, data-driven design, and partnership with private and nonprofit organizations can achieve superior outcomes for families in need.



The current safety net is fragmented, inefficient, and often counterproductive. Families face a maze of overlapping eligibility rules, case managers, and benefit cliffs that punish progress and discourage work. The Upward Mobility Act begins to fix this failing system by aligning funding with measurable results to reduce poverty, improve employment outcomes, and restore fiscal integrity.

We urge Congress to advance the Upward Mobility Act of 2025 to restore dignity and opportunity to America's safety net. This legislation is not merely an administrative reform—it is a moral and practical commitment to help every person achieve their inherent potential.

The Alliance for Opportunity stands ready to assist policymakers and state leaders in demonstrating how flexible, accountable, and human-centered reforms can turn the safety net into a true springboard to independence.

Respectfully,

The Alliance for Opportunity

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*\*Signatory's views are their own and do not represent the view of their affiliated organization.*