

The Child's Bill of Rights

The ideal to which we should strive is that there shall be no child in America:

- That has not been born under proper conditions
- That does not live in hygienic conditions
- That ever suffers from undernourishment
- That does not have prompt and efficient medical attention and inspection
- That does not receive primary instruction in the elements of hygiene and good health
- That has not the complete birthright of a sound mind in a sound body
- That has not the encouragement to express in fullest measure the spirit within, which is the final endowment of every human being.

Background:

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND, 1923. President Herbert Hoover himself had been orphaned at the age of 10. Both as Secretary of Commerce and later as President he took a pronounced interest in efforts to improve the welfare of children, serving as President of The American Child Health Association, founded to further these goals. The Association designated May 1st as national "Child Health Day," and sponsored studies on the health and well-being of children. Its documentation of the nation's high rate of infant mortality gave impetus to reforms in maternity care, midwifery and the pasteurization of milk. As President, Hoover increased the budget of the Children's Bureau and hosted the White House Conference on the Health and Protection of Children in November 1930. It issued a nineteen- point "Children's Charter" that was directly derived from the 1923 Child's Bill of Rights.