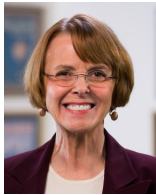


The Federal Budget and Children

According to the Urban Institute, the federal share of the non-defense budget that has gone to invest in children and their families has declined significantly over the last two decades. Further, the aging of America's society and the projected costs of meeting commitments under social security and Medicare threaten to subsume nearly the entire federal discretionary budget that has been used to invest in children and their families. Without substantial additional federal tax revenues or dramatic shifts in federal approaches to health care costs, social security, and other issues, the federal government's investment in children and families almost certainly will decline.

As U.S. Senator, what will you do to ensure that needed investments in children and youth are made at the federal level?



CONLIN: Children and families must come first. We must ensure that essential programs are fully funded and overseen by committed individuals who believe in their mission. To accomplish this, we must identify our nation's spending priorities and make certain that programs designed to protect, medicate, and educate the leaders of the next generation are among the top priorities. We should be examining federal spending to make sure that we are spending efficiently; removing wasteful, fraudulent, and abusive spending and redirecting those funds to areas where the money is desperately needed.



GRASSLEY: Too often, federal expenditures are used as a way to concentrate decisions that affect children and families in Washington, D.C. instead of empowering parents, teachers and local communities. This causes a mismatch between local needs and the federal response as well as an additional layer of bureaucracy. I will work to maintain funding for programs that empower parents, families and teachers and redirect funding from programs that take decisions away from those most affected.