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**Accelerating Policymaker Accountability for U.S. Kids' Well-Being:
Charting the Course & A Call to Action
New Report from Kids Impact Initiative**

Wednesday, February 27: Today, [Kids Impact Initiative](#), a national, nonprofit child advocacy project based in California, released a new report, "[Accelerating Policymaker Accountability for U.S. Kids' Well-Being: Charting the Course and A Call to Action](#)."

Based on a year of research, the report concludes that strengthening policymaker accountability for children is more urgent than at any time in this century. Serious new threats noted in the report need to be addressed by public policy, including an impending substantial decline in federal resources for children and the community supports that help them thrive. Policymakers at the federal, state, and local levels will be the ones deciding priorities for action and the fate of many investments in children's healthy development. Leaders for children, advocates, and philanthropists need to focus attention and resources on holding policymakers accountable for ensuring the well-being of the nation's children.

And, as noted in the article "[Accountability is Key to Capitalizing on New Political Leadership on Child Well-Being](#)"—which is based on the report and appears in the *Chronicle of Social Change*—the goals of California's new governor and other political leaders who are already focused on children's issues could be undercut by the current political environment.

"Those who lead and advocate for children are aware that the shifting sands of politics require a concerted effort to make sure policymakers understand what's at stake for children and are accountable for making decisions that promote their health, education, and well-being. Our new research outlines the urgency of this need and also provides concrete examples of successes, an accelerator model, and a plan for action between now and the 2020 elections to help make that happen," said Wendy Lazarus, Co-Founder of Kids Impact Initiative and lead author of the report.

The report is based on interviews with dozens of stakeholders, a high-level literature review of strategies for holding policymakers accountable, a scan of accountability strategies currently in use by children's leaders and in other fields, and the authors' combined 60-plus years of experience on the front lines as child advocates. To our knowledge, this report provides the first-ever look at child advocacy in the U.S. through the lens of policymaker accountability.

"Kids Impact's Paul Revere-like warning about the dangers kids face ought to light a fire under all of us who are funders and nonprofit leaders to take stock of what we're doing to strengthen policymaker accountability and to do more," said Peter Long, President and CEO, Blue Shield of California Foundation.

For an [executive summary](#) and [related materials](#), see www.kidsimpact.org.

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