

# Senator Hatch Supports Bill to Protect Foster Children

Published: Thursday, 11 August 2016 08:04

Written by: Questions?

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## INFANTS

An infant's brain develops through positively reinforcing interactions with a dependable caregiver.



## YOUNG CHILDREN

Young children, treated as individuals, develop self-esteem and learn to form relationships and regulate behavior.



## ADOLESCENTS

Adolescents learn independence within healthy boundaries while looking to parents as a moral compass.



## YOUNG ADULTS

Young adults draw on family experiences and relationships to support self-reliance and to raise their own children.

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) is working to pass the Family First Prevention Services Act (HR.5456/S.3065), a bipartisan bill that would ensure more children can stay safely with family and out of foster care by allowing federal child welfare dollars to be used on preventive mental health, substance abuse, and in-home counseling services to children who are candidates for foster care, as well as their parents or caregivers.

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The #FamilyFirstAct helps children live in loving and caring families whenever possible.

Take action at [CampaignForChildren.org](http://CampaignForChildren.org).

The bill also encourages the placement of children in foster care in the least restrictive, most family-like settings appropriate to their needs. This positive step would conform to the Annie E. Casey Foundation recommendations listed in a recently released report:

[Kids Count Report: Too many children in child welfare are not living in families](#)

“The Family First Prevention Services Act has the potential to have a far-reaching impact in the lives of foster children and youth and their families,” said Bruce Lesley, president of First Focus Campaign for Children. He commended Senator Hatch “for promoting evidence-based prevention services to keep children in family settings and out of foster care.”

Thank you, Senator Hatch, for your leadership on this issue!

For more information, see this fact sheet:

[First Focus Fact Sheet: Family First Prevention Services Act](#)

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For 30 years now, Voices for Utah Children has called on our state, federal and local leaders to put children's needs first. But the work is not done. The children of 30 years ago now have children of their own. Too many of these children are growing up in poverty, without access to healthcare or quality educational opportunities.

## **How can you be involved?**

[Make a tax-deductible donation](#) to Voices for Utah Children—or [join our Network](#) with a monthly donation of \$20 or more. Network membership includes complimentary admission to Network events with food, socializing, and opportunity to meet child advocacy experts. And don't forget to [join our listserv](#) to stay informed!

We look forward to the future of Voices for Utah Children and we hope you will be a part of our next 30 years.

*Special thanks to American Express for sponsoring our 30th Anniversary Year.*

