

[NEWS](#)

SRCD Brings Youth Mental Health Experts to Congress in First Child Policy Connect Experience

General Information and Resources on the U.S. Federal Leadership Transition for SRCD Members

General Information and Resources for SRCD Members

With the Trump Administration set to take office in the new year, along with a Republican-controlled 119th U.S. Congress, the SRCD Policy Department remains dedicated to monitoring critical policy areas and regulatory developments. Below, you will find general information, resources, and timely updates on significant changes affecting key U.S. federal agencies. The SRCD Policy Department continues to prioritize efforts that support children's well-being and advocate for science funding in the yearly federal appropriations process.

Leadership and Governance

The Trump Administration has started to announce nominees to science and research-based federal agencies, which require confirmation by the U.S. Senate. With new leadership, we expect shifts on senior level officials of different offices, departments, and institutes within the federal government.

U.S. Federal Agencies

Nominees

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Health and Human Services (HHS)

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ)

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Department of Agriculture (DOA)

Department of Education (ED)

Institute of Education Services (IES)

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Department of Justice (DOJ)

Russell Vought - Confirmed

Robert F. Kennedy - Confirmed

Announcement Forthcoming

Dr. Dave Weldon

Announcement Forthcoming

Dr. Mehmet Oz - Confirmed

Dr. Marty Makary

Announcement Forthcoming

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya - Confirmed

Brooke Rollins - Confirmed

Linda McMahon - Confirmed

Announcement Forthcoming

Announcement Forthcoming

Pam Bondi - Confirmed

An Overview of the 119th U.S. Congress



The Republican Party, also known as the GOP, won the majority in both chambers of the U.S. Congress. On the U.S. House of Representatives, the GOP was able to maintain a slim majority, securing 218 seats. Rep. Johnson was able to secure his seat as the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

There are minimal changes in leadership roles in committees of interest to SRCD.

On the U.S. Senate, the GOP regained the majority, securing 53 seats. Sen. John Thune has been elected as the new Senate Majority Leader. In terms of committee leadership, as a Democratic-led Senate now flips to a GOP-led chamber, most of the changes in committees of interest to SRCD flipped from Ranking Members to now Chairs, and Chairs to Ranking Members.

Policy Areas to Watch

SRCD remains committed to representing our members' interests at the U.S. federal level. Some of the several themes to monitor with the new Administration and 119th U.S Congress would be:

Federal Government Spending & Presidential Campaign Promises

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- Reductions in science funding in the appropriation process
- Limited funding support for mental health programs
- Reauthorization of the Farm Bill without proper funding support to social welfare programs that support vulnerable children and their families
- Changes to Medicare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act

- Lack of funding support for childcare programs, or childcare tax exemptions (e.g. child tax credit).
- Stricter immigration policies

Scientific Integrity

- Increased skepticism regarding vaccines
- Rollbacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies within the scientific federal workforce

SRCD's Policy Priorities

Click on the button below to view SRCD's policy priorities and learn how we work with coalition partners to support our members through the promotion of evidence-based policymaking that supports children's development and well-being.

[SRCD Policy Priorities](#)

SRCD is prepared to support our members, policymakers and stakeholders.

SRCD's Policy Department is committed to continuing our non-partisan efforts to ensure that children's development remains a top priority for policymakers. With the new Child Policy Hub, SRCD Policy staff and SRCD members are now better equipped to promote evidence-based policymaking.

With [Science Advocacy](#) and in coordination with the [SRCD's Policy Committee](#), our policy staff will advocate for science funding, submit responses to requests for information or notices of proposed rulemaking, endorse letters supporting programs that positively impact children, closely monitor nominations and legislation, and more. **Click the button below** to learn more about our policy efforts in 2024.

[2024 Policy Efforts](#)

Child Policy Connect

SRCD continues to build a reputation of an organization of honest and trusted brokers of science with its new [Child Policy Connect](#) program. In the 119th Congress, SRCD's policy team will be meeting with Congressional offices to learn what questions they need researchers to answer about child and family policy. The policy team will then match the Connect community members with Congressional offices based on shared interests, building bi-directional research-to-policy relationships in the process.

[Learn More and Join the Connect Community](#)

Child Policy Briefs

As new policy challenges arise throughout the new Congress and Presidential administration, the new [Child Policy Briefs](#) program will respond to our members' pressing policy concerns. Members can access existing SRCD policy publications on the Child Policy Briefs web page and will soon be able to submit topics for new briefs. These briefs are tools for members to inform their own advocacy and policy work.

[Read our Child Policy Briefs](#)

Resources

As things progress in the policy space, be in the lookout for SRCD's weekly newsletter, and follow our social media pages for news and updates. SRCD members can also subscribe to our Coalition Partners newsletters.

Click on the button below to learn more about our coalition work.

[SRCD's Coalition Partners](#)

SRCD on Social Media

[LinkedIn](#) | [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Threads](#) | [Bluesky](#)

Newsletter of Coalition Partners

[Consortium of Social Science Associations](#) | [Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences \(FABBS\)](#)