Six facts about child well-being in West Virginia

As of 2018, 36% of West Virginia children lived in families lacking secure parental employment.

In 2018, 13,000 West Virginia children lacked health insurance.

23% of West Virginia children lived in households that were food insecure at some point in 2018.

In 2018, 65% of Virginia children ages 3 to 4 were not enrolled in prekindergarten programs, 14% higher than in neighboring Virginia.

70% of West Virginia fourth graders scored below proficient at fourth grade reading achievement in 2019.

West Virginia ranks 48th in the nation in the children's economic well-being domain.

Sources: West Virginia KIDS COUNT, KIDS COUNT Data Center
In the US today, 52.1% of children (38.5 million children) are poor or low-income.1 When more than half of our children do not know if they will have a place to sleep, nutritious meals, or safe communities, we are failing our families and compromising the future of this country.

More than 1.5 million public school students experienced homelessness2 during the 2017-2018 school year. LGBTQ+ youth are at a much higher risk of homelessness than their peers.3

In 2016, there was a resurgence in school re-segregation. Predominantly white school districts received $2,200 more per student in funding.4 Funding for tribals schools has fallen from $400 million to $133 million over the past 10 years.5

A child or teen is killed with a gun every 2 hours and 34 minutes.6 African American and Native children and teens are more likely to be killed by law enforcement than any other ethnic groups.

Due to consistent underfunding, Early Head Start served only 5% of eligible infants and toddlers in 2016.7

SNAP benefits 17.5 million children,8 but current attacks on SNAP will mean that 1 million children will no longer receive school meals.9

In 2019, student debt totaled more than $1.5 trillion10 and affected about 44 million Americans.11

It does not need to be this way. Investing in our children’s education could grow the economy by $32 trillion over the long-term.12 A Wall Street tax of 0.1% in trading could raise $70 billion to provide free public college for all.13 A cut of just 1% to the military budget would cover nearly 8 million additional Head Start spots.14