

A **NEW DEAL** FOR **YOUTH**



**A NEW DEAL
FOR YOUTH ACT**
2026 YOUTH-LED
LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE



ABOUT ND4Y

A New Deal for Youth (ND4Y) is a youth-led, youth-centered effort advocating for the creation of new systems, policies, investments, and structures that reimagine life for young people in America.

ND4Y serves youth who have been left behind — the disconnected and the disenfranchised; marginalized, misrepresented, and silenced; young people who may not use their voice as much as they would like to. We center Indigenous and Black communities and youth of color; LGBTQIA+ youth; disabled folks; all immigrant communities, including undocumented young people; young parents; transition-age youth (TAY); and foster care and former foster care youth. We recognize the intersections of these identities, including intersections with gender and gender identity.

ABOUT THE NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH ACT

The New Deal for Youth Act (ND4Y Act) is a bold, visionary, youth-led federal legislative proposal that reimagines life for young people in America. The ND4Y Act was developed under the leadership of ND4Y Changemakers with support from partners and allies. The ND4Y Act covers six issue areas in the ND4Y platform: economic justice and opportunity, healing and well-being, justice and safe communities, environmental justice, democracy and civic engagement, and immigration justice.

YOUTH-LED LEGISLATION

Since 2023, ND4Y Changemakers have written 10 bills to translate their demands into policy. This package makes them public for the first time.

Youth-led legislation is designed and crafted by young people. Young people:

- Originate ideas;
- Are equal partners to Hill offices;
- Have agency;
- Are at the head of the table;
- Determine how the information they provide will be disseminated; and
- Are the top decision-making body.





SCORED LEGISLATION

ND4Y developed legislative scoring criteria in 2022. The New Deal for Youth Act includes the bills originally endorsed by ND4Y in 2022, as well as additional bills that we have reviewed and endorsed between 2023 and 2026. Only legislation that has a final score of 5 or higher was considered for endorsement. You can learn more about the ND4Y bill scoring criteria at bit.ly/ND4YScorecard or with the QR code below:





PARTNER ENDORSEMENTS



- National Collaborative for Transformative Youth Policy
- Alianza for Opportunity
- Children's Defense Fund Action
- Justice + Joy National Collaborative
- Partners for Youth with Disabilities
- Prevention Institute
- Shanice Speaks
- The Aspen Institute: Forum for Community Solutions
- The Forum for Youth Investment
- Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
- We ARE Revolutionary
- Women's Equity Center and Action Network
- Young Invincibles



TITLE I. ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY

A New Deal for Youth envisions a world where the economy is designed to uplift all young people and abolish structural barriers; race, gender, ability, or citizenship status does not determine access to opportunities; and policies support young people and their families in times of scarcity, whether that's food, housing, or financial assistance.



ND4Y-Authored Legislation

- ✓ [Repeal Discriminatory Certificates for Disabled Workers Act](#)
- ✓ [Affordable Housing for Low-Income Students Act](#)

Endorsed Legislation (Updated 2023-2026)

- ✓ [H.R. 3793](#): Minority Entrepreneurship Grant Program Act of 2025
• Score: 7.1
- ✓ [H.R. 9781](#): Providing Real Opportunities for Growth to Rising Entrepreneurs for Sustained Success
• Score: 6.6
- ✓ [H.R. 7457](#): Young Adult Tax Credit Act
• Score: 6.6
- ✓ [S.1332](#): Raise the Wage Act of 2025
• Score: 6.1
- ✓ [H.R. 8745](#): Innovation Centers Acceleration Act
• Score: 5.1



Endorsed Legislation (Original-2022)

- ✓ [H.R. 3246](#): [Connecting Youth to Jobs Act of 2021](#)
• Score: 7.7
- ✓ [H.R. 1724/S. 789](#): Higher Education and Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act
• Score: 6.4
- ✓ [H.R. 5191/S.1696](#): Youth Workforce Readiness Act of 2021
• Score: 5.8
- ✓ [H.R. 5191/S. 2916](#): Runaway and Homeless Youth Trafficking Prevention Act
• Score: 5.3





TITLE II. HEALING AND WELL-BEING

We envision a world where young people have the opportunity to heal, develop, and are positioned to thrive. In the New Deal for Youth, healing and well-being become awareness, responsiveness, support, and accessibility. This looks like destigmatizing mental health to increase access for everyone and including practices that are outside western medicine.

ND4Y-Authored Legislation

- ✓ [Expanding Mental and Behavioral Health Access Act](#)
- ✓ [Healing Practices Innovation and Equity Act](#)
- ✓ [Youth Privacy Act](#)

Endorsed Legislation (Updated 2023-2026)

- ✓ [H.R. 3792: Strong Support for Children Act](#)
 - Score: 6.9
- ✓ [S. 5037: Medikids Act](#)
 - Score: 6.4
- ✓ [H.R. 5: Equality Act](#)
 - Score: 6.4
- ✓ [H.R. 3836: Protecting Students in Schools Act](#)
 - Score: 6.1
- ✓ [H.R. 7236: Strengthen Kids Mental Health Now Act of 2022](#)
 - Score: 5.8
- ✓ [S.1448/H.R.2904: Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act](#)
 - Score: 5.8
- ✓ [H.R. 1735: Early Minds Act](#)
 - Score: 5.8
- ✓ [S.157: Virtual Peer Support Act](#)
 - Score: 5.6
- ✓ [S. 1848: Every Child Deserves a Family Act](#)
 - Score: 5.3

Endorsed Legislation (Original-2022)

- ✓ [H.R. 4011/S.2125: Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act](#)
 - Score: 8.9
- ✓ [S.2086: RISE From Trauma Act](#)
 - Score: 7.7
- ✓ [H.R.3312/S.1689: Real Education and Access for Healthy Youth Act of 2021](#)
 - Score: 7.2
- ✓ [H.R.1234: Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act](#)
 - Score: 7.2





TITLE III. JUSTICE AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

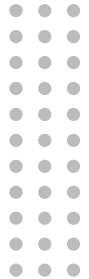
We must re-envision what safety and justice is with the abolition of oppressive systems at the center; a world where we are all safe and accepted without judgement.

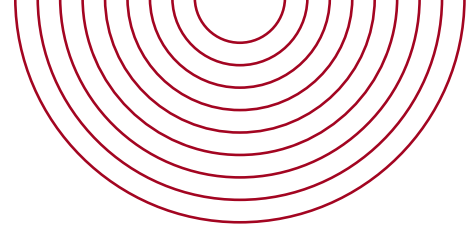
ND4Y-Authored Legislation

- ✓ [Community Safety and Health Systems Realignment Act](#)

Endorsed Legislation (Original-2022)

- ✓ [H.R. 4194](#): People's Response Act
 - Score: 9.7
- ✓ [H.R. 7320/S. 3973](#): Restorative Practices in Schools Act
 - Score: 8.1
- ✓ [H.R. 2248](#): Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2021
 - Score: 6.9
- ✓ [H.R. 3617](#): Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act (MORE)
 - Score: 6.7





TITLE IV. IMMIGRATION JUSTICE

Immigration is beautiful and natural; immigrants are essential to this country. Migration in search of new opportunities has happened for thousands of years and only became unsafe when systems were created that stigmatized and oppressed it. Failed and discriminatory policies induce forced migration, whether it be Indigenous peoples forced off their land, people fleeing violence from U.S.-sponsored military campaigns in their countries, or climate refugees impacted by failed global climate policies. Immigration justice means pursuing the collective liberation of immigrants and all people, dismantling systems of oppression, and ensuring access to basic human rights. Immigration justice also means language justice. In order to move forward ethically, however, we must also recognize, acknowledge, and take accountability for the harms our immigration system has enacted.

ND4Y-Authored Legislation



[The Humane Immigration Enforcement and Agency Restructuring Act](#)

Endorsed Legislation (Updated 2023-2026)



[Melt ICE Act](#)

• Score: 8.1



Endorsed Legislation (Original-2022)



[H.R. 536: New Way Forward Act](#)

• Score: 6.4



[H.R. 6: The American Dream and Promise Act](#)

• Score: 6.4



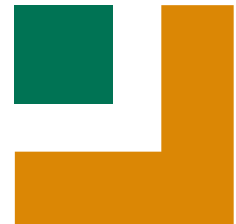
[H.R. 3129/S. 1660: HEAL for Immigrant Families Act of 2021](#)

• Score: 5.3



[S. 264: Dream Act of 2021](#)

• Score: 5.3



SPECIAL MENTION:

The following bill is responsive to one or more ND4Y-led demands, but it did not meet our minimum endorsement score of a 5. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate to strengthen this bill by incorporating youth-led edits and amendments.

• [H.R. 3194: US Citizenship Act](#)



TITLE V. DEMOCRACY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

In a New Deal for Youth, democracy and civic engagement mean authentically engaging youth and recognizing our power — centering our voices and collective voting block, not just during national elections but year-round in our local communities, at the state level and nationally. Civic engagement specifically means challenging and changing our current systems to adapt to the needs of our communities, ensuring that everyone has the right to vote, run for elected office, and be represented by a government that works for us, not corporate interests. We envision a world where youth and young adults are recognized as capable and competent leaders, driving systems change with the necessary resources in place to make voting easy and accessible for all.



ND4Y-Authored Legislation

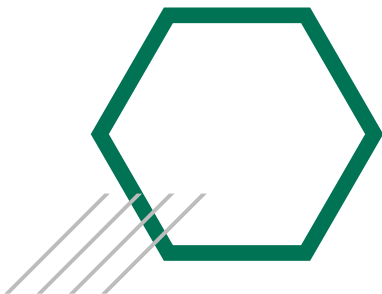
- ✓ [Teaching Disability History in Schools Act](#)
- ✓ [Youth Engagement Act](#)

Endorsed Legislation (Updated 2023-2026)

- ✓ [H.R. 4632](#): Fair Representation Act
 - Score: 5.0
- ✓ [H.R.738](#): Universal Right To Vote by Mail Act of 2025
 - Score: 5.8

Endorsed Legislation (Original-2022)

- ✓ [H.J. Res. 23](#): Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States extending the right to vote to citizens 16 years of age or older
 - Score: 8.1
- ✓ [H.R. 1366](#): Protect the Youth Vote Act
 - Score: 7.2
- ✓ [H.R. 4425](#): Federal Bureau of Prisons Voting Assistance Act
 - Score: 5.8
- ✓ [H.R. 4959/S. 2615](#): Right to Vote Act
 - Score: 5.3



SPECIAL MENTION:

The following bills are responsive to one or more ND4Y-led demands, but they did not meet our minimum endorsement score of a 5. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate to strengthen these bills by incorporating youth-led edits and amendments.

- [H.R. 1](#): For the People Act
- [H.R. 154](#): Election Day Act
- [H.R. 2987](#): Election Mail Act



TITLE VI. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental justice is rooted in acknowledging the disproportionate environmental burden that marginalized communities bear, including but not limited to the harmful effects of climate change, urban planning, and the desecration of sacred land. Environmental justice is an intersectional issue area, dealing with social, racial, and economic inequities, revealing the need to work toward the just distribution of decision-making and resources to foster authentic community-oriented solutions. Additionally, environmental justice assumes the necessity of giving land back to Indigenous peoples.

ND4Y-Authored Legislation

- ✓ [Regenerative Economy and Environmental Justice Act](#)

Endorsed Legislation (Updated 2023-2026)

- ✓ [H.R. 5784: Green New Deal in Public Schools Act](#)
• Score: 8.1

Endorsed Legislation (Original-2022)

- ✓ [H.R. 6492: Climate Resilience Workforce Act](#)
• Score: 8.3
- ✓ [H.R. 3923/S. 2236: The Environmental Justice Act](#)
• Score: 7.8
- ✓ [H.R. 2021/S. 872: Environmental Justice for All Act](#)
• Score: 5.3





A GENERATIONAL CALL TO ACTION

Young people can't wait for economic justice. We can't wait for healing and well-being. We can't wait for safe communities. It is time for a New Deal for Youth that responds to the historic roots and current scale of the challenges young people face. Our future as a nation depends on how intentionally and boldly we invest in this generation.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Hill Offices:

1. Engage with ND4Y
2. Sponsor our legislative package and introduce youth-authored bills
3. Engage directly with young people in your districts

Advocates:

1. Sign onto our demands
2. Follow us on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok @newdeal4youth