

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE ASSET ACT

"Prosperity Now is incredibly grateful to be working with Senators Coons and Brown to champion the ASSET Act and end the harm caused by asset limits on public assistance programs. This bill will remove a significant barrier to saving and put financial security in reach for some of our most vulnerable families across the country." — **Gary Cunningham, President and CEO, Prosperity Now.**

"Asset limits for means-tested programs such as SNAP and TANF force people to deplete their resources and avoid accumulating savings in order to maintain eligibility. Restricting public benefits eligibility through asset tests only hurts people who are trying to achieve economic security and plunges them deeper into poverty. By eliminating asset limits, the ASSET Act will allow families to save for unexpected events, education expenses, or a deposit for a home in a better neighborhood without risking their access to vital programs that help them make ends meet. We applaud Senator Coons for introducing this important legislation, which will enable workers and parents with low incomes to build a stronger financial future." — **Olivia Golden, Executive Director, the Center for Law and Social Policy**

"The Coalition on Human Needs strongly supports the ASSET Act which will allow people who need TANF, SNAP, LIHEAP, and SSI to improve their economic security by ending counter-productive penalties on savings, enabling them to withstand financial emergencies, reduce their dependence on public assistance, and build for their future." — **Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director, Coalition on Human Needs**

"Children continue to disproportionately experience poverty in the U.S. Our child poverty rate would be even higher if not for programs such as TANF, SNAP, and LIHEAP that lift millions of children out of poverty each year, and make children healthier and more successful. Prohibiting families with children from accessing cash assistance and nutritional support because they have some assets or savings is counterintuitive to breaking the cycle of poverty and adds needless administrative burden." — **Bruce Lesley, President, First Focus Campaign for Children**

"Research consistently shows that increasing family economic resources and building assets is important for current and future child and adult health. We also know that SNAP, TANF, and LIHEAP are good medicine for families, helping them to thrive. Ensuring that families have the support they need while they build toward economic stability is the right thing to ensure a healthier future for us all." — **Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, Executive Director, Children's HealthWatch**

"The Latino community in the U.S. – 60 million people strong and growing – accounts for a \$2.3 trillion economy. Yet, as crucial as Latinos' contributions are to our nation's prosperity, persisting economic inequality is holding the community back, which harms the future prospects of all Americans. The ASSET Act is a positive step in the right direction, especially at a time when the Trump Administration has been relentless in its attacks on American families struggling to make ends meet. We're already seeing the consequences of harmful actions like the public charge rule and rollbacks to disparate impact, which have created barriers to economic opportunity for Latino families across the nation. By increasing access to core assistance programs like SNAP, TANF, and SSI, which have helped lift countless Americans out of poverty, the ASSET Act would help millions of Latinos achieve their full economic potential." — **Eric Rodriguez, Senior Vice President, Policy and Advocacy, UnidosUS**

"Bread for the World strongly supports the ASSET Act. Eliminating asset tests will give struggling families the opportunity to build up savings and pull themselves out of hunger and poverty. Families should not be punished for building a better life for themselves or for having some savings to fall back on in case of an emergency or unexpected expense." — **Rev. David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World.**

"Simplifying asset test policies in Michigan has reduced barriers and accelerated the process for struggling families to get benefits they need. The ASSET Act would take the next step in making the safety net work better for both families and state agencies who administer these programs." — **Robert Gordon, Director of Health and Human Services, State of Michigan**

## WHAT DELAWAREANS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE ASSET ACT

We are proud to support the ASSET Act—a policy proposition that is aligned with DCRAC’s mission of transforming financial lives. One in five American households have a zero or negative wealth. Allowing one to save without the threat of losing much needed financial support is one way we aid those working to escape poverty. This legislation is one of many we need to build financial stability for the most vulnerable in our communities. — **Rashmi Rangan, Executive Director, Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council (DCRAC)**

“Over time, public policies, private sector actions, and disinvestment have combined to perpetuate segregation in our cities and concentrate poverty in certain neighborhoods. Intergenerational urban poverty continues to persist and conditions need to be created to ensure that all people can sustain a decent standard of living. We applaud and thank Senator Coons for introducing the ASSET Act, which will eliminate asset limits for programs such as SNAP and TANF. This Act will allow people, who need these programs, to improve their financial security through savings for emergencies, education, reliable transportation, or a new home.” — **Logan Herring, Chief Executive Officer, REACH Riverside**

“Applying asset limits on safety net programs is flawed public policy. At the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, we took an important step in 2009 to raise the TANF asset limit, realizing that such a low limit was counterproductive to the Department’s mission to promote self-sufficiency among public benefit recipients. The ASSET Act takes Delaware’s and other states success in reforming asset limits one step further and ensures these programs allow the most vulnerable families to access benefits while planning for their economic independence.” — **Rita Landgraf, Director, Partnership for Healthy Communities at the University of Delaware and former Cabinet Secretary of the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services**

“West End Neighborhood House applauds both Senator Coons and Senator Brown for crafting legislation that encourages and rewards self-sufficiency and savings for low and very low-income families. The ASSET Act is an excellent example of the Federal Government following the lead of State Governments who have already realized the benefits of increased efficiency and cost savings. This legislation rewards families that are working their way out of poverty and beginning to develop their own safety nets” — **Paul F Calisto Jr., Executive Director, West End Neighborhood House**