Foster care is an important intervention for children who are not safe at home. But as many as 50% of U.S. children in foster care could have been spared the trauma of family separation if their family had access to supportive people and services before they experienced a crisis. These are the programs and services that elected officials can support to strengthen families and safely prevent the need for foster care.

Invest Resources Upstream

**Concrete & Social Supports**
- Food security (SNAP)
- Employment assistance
- Financial assistance (TANF)
- Housing security
- Transportation
- Supportive people such as family, friends and neighbors

**Healthcare**
- Primary health access (Medicaid expansion)
- Mental health support
- Substance use treatment

**Education**
- Early childhood education
- Strong K-12 education
- Parents as Teachers
- Parenting education (such as GenPMTO and Strengthening Families)

**Child Welfare Prevention**
- Family Preservation services
- Family First Act-funded programs (such as family therapy)

Next Step: FOSTER CARE

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