

## ***The Kid Angle***

*Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children*

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**Solutions worth fighting for  
September 23, 2021**

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The plan was to seal the deal on reconciliation — and its **game-changing investment in every aspect of children’s lives** — then take up roads, bridges and broadband.

That best-laid plan has hit turbulence. As best-laid plans often do. Supporters and advocates are now fighting to ensure that the package continues to provide long-term solutions to long-term problems, such as child poverty and hunger, while building the foundation for all children to thrive and prosper during and after our COVID-19 recovery.

**Among the solutions worth fighting for:**

- **A road out of child poverty:** Full refundability of the Child Tax Credit for [29 million of the country’s lowest income families](#). Expanded CTC benefits. Monthly delivery of benefits. Expansion and permanence for [other child-friendly tax credits](#). [More than 250 organizations](#) have joined First Focus Campaign for Children in this fight.
- **Equality for children’s health care:** The **Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** must be given [the same status — permanence — as Medicaid, Medicare, and every other federally funded health care program](#) — including the one members of Congress enjoy. [More than 500 organizations](#) have joined First Focus Campaign for Children in this fight.
- **Protection of mothers and babies:** Required 12-month continuous coverage for children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. Required increase of postpartum care for moms to one year. First Focus Campaign for Children recently joined [more than 200 organizations](#) in calling for these solutions.
- **Honoring the right of children and parents to participate in society and the economy:** The proposed \$450 billion investment in early learning, including investments in both child care and pre-K, will benefit children, families, early learning employees, and employers across the country. [Child care is the lynchpin of the U.S. economy](#).
- **An end child hunger:** Reconciliation provisions include \$35 billion to expand the reach of free school meals to nearly 9 million children; create a permanent, nationwide program to extend Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer to more eligible low-income children; permit Medicaid direct

certification to better link eligible children to free and reduced-price school meals; and increase access to healthier foods at school.

## Events

[Webinar: How New Data Shows the Pathway for Ending Child Poverty:](#) Join the U.S. Child Poverty Action Group and First Focus on Children on Tuesday, September 28th at 3pm ET to explore what the new Census data tells us about the impact of COVID-19 on child poverty and why Congress needs to act NOW to build on the progress made so far. **Tuesday, September 28th, 3:00-4:15pm ET.** [RSVP here](#)

## Reports

Economic Policy Institute: "[Build Back Better agenda will ensure strong, stable recovery in coming years:](#)" This recently released study concludes that the Administration's Build Back Better agenda would support **4.0 million** jobs annually, including:

- **1.1 million** caregiving jobs
- **763,000** green jobs
- **556,000** manufacturing jobs
- **312,000** construction jobs

**Bruce Lesley**  
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By a wide 71-18% margin, voters overwhelmingly support the improvement to the Child Tax Credit included in the Building Back Better legislation passed by the House.

These provisions expire at the end of the year and child poverty will nearly double if the Senate fails to act.

**Voters have spoken & they support children.**

DO YOU SUPPORT THE AMERICAN FAMILY ACT – WHICH WOULD EXPAND THE CHILD TAX CREDIT & REDUCE CHILD POVERTY?

Group	Support	Do Not Support
DEMOCRATS	86% - 9%	
REPUBLICANS	62% - 24%	
INDEPENDENTS	64% - 25%	

Source: Lake Research Partners - 2020 Election Eve Survey of Voters

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