

The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

Is history about to repeat itself?

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Why kids need Congress to avoid the mistakes of the last crisis

Let's take a minute to think back. Not too far. Just a decade or so. Remember that? The Great Recession?

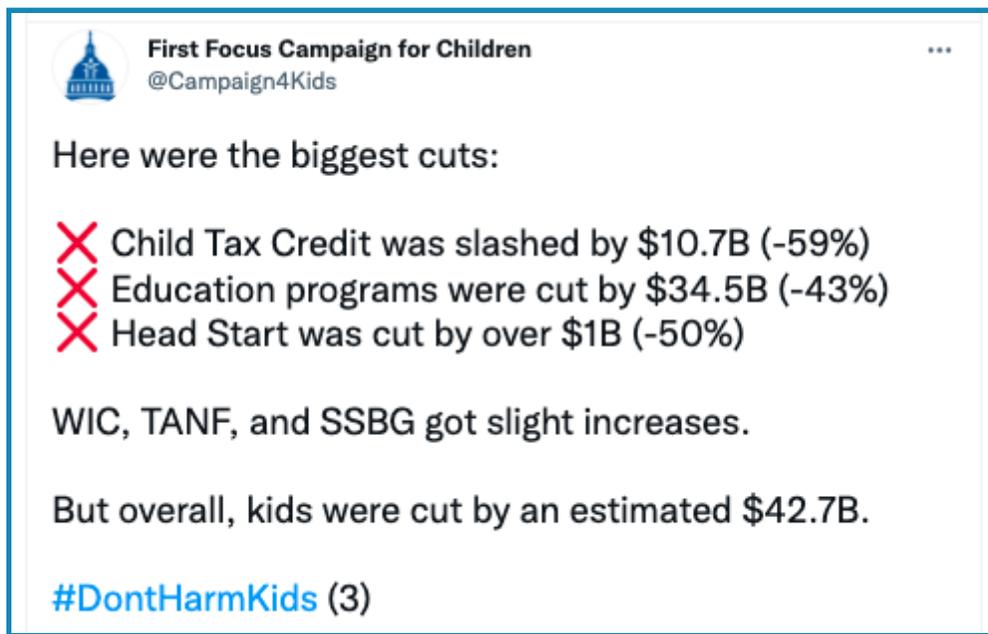
Bad as it was, the Great Recession — and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that aimed to blunt its impact — offer lessons for right now.

Then, like now, Congress was engaged in pen-to-pen combat on what to cut and what to keep. As the Senate prowled the House bill looking for \$100 billion in cuts, guess who were the [frequent and wildly disproportionate target](#)?



Photo by Allison Shelley/The Verbatim Agency for EDUimages

That's right. Roughly \$43 billion came out of programs for our nation's children, proving again that — regardless of the rhetoric — children come last and least for many U.S. policymakers.



As lawmakers and President Biden [pare back the Build Back Better agenda](#), here are some excellent arguments for why they must make sure this history does not repeat itself:

- [Opinion | On Very Serious People, Climate and Children](#)
Why don't those who used to obsess over debt seem to care about the future?
- [Opinion | If Democrats must scale down, here's what they should prioritize](#)
Democrats should prioritize investments in the young and the future
- [Biden and the Democrats Need to Make Hard Spending Choices](#)
Historic reforms are possible if the Party can agree on its priorities

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has [cast the reconciliation bill as a “culmination” of her service in Congress](#), because it is “about the children. It’s about health, their education, the economic security of their families, the security of their families, a clean, safe environment in which they could thrive.”

Let’s hope that all of Congress — and especially the Senate — feel the same way.