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?

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.