



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

Lawmakers on House floor call for improved CTC, other protections June 16, 2022

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Vaccines, public charge, gun legislation also progress during Children's Week

Rep. Sara Jacobs (D-CA) called on Congress Wednesday to reinstate the improved Child Tax Credit, pass a child poverty reduction target and expand access to affordable, accessible child care during a Special Order held to celebrate [Children's Week](#).

[Speaking from the House floor](#), Jacobs noted that more than 3 million children have slipped back into poverty since expiration of the improved Child Tax Credit. That more than 6 million are poised to lose Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program coverage when the public health emergency is revoked. And that thousands of school meal providers could be forced to shut down if child nutrition waivers expire at the end of this month, leaving millions of kids without healthy meals this summer.

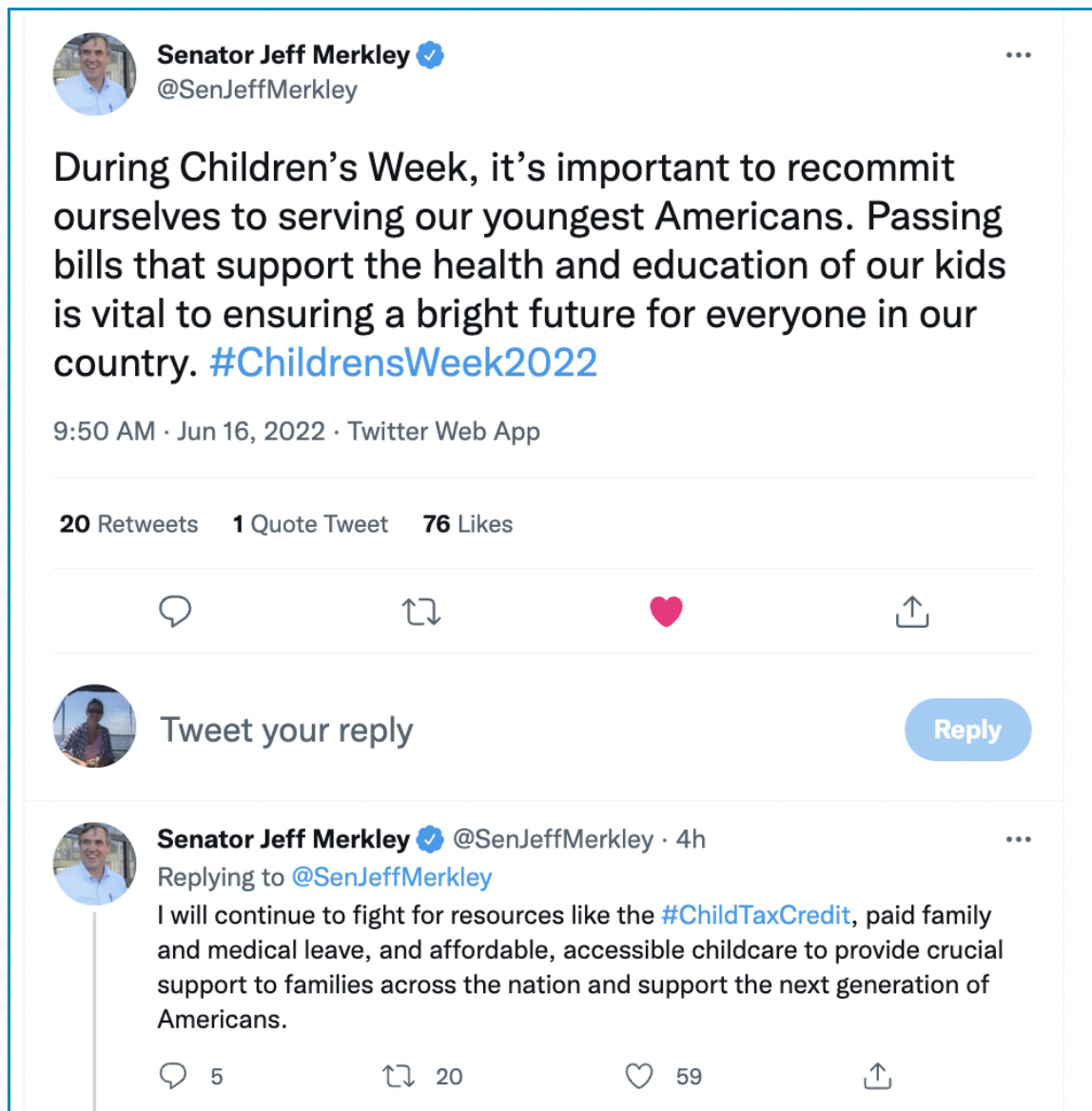
"America's kids deserve better," she said. "Investing in children isn't just the right thing to do to give kids and families a strong start," she continued. "It's also the fiscally responsible thing to do."

Rep. Jacobs co-sponsors the [Child Poverty Reduction Act](#) and leads a letter with other members to include child care in any future reconciliation package. She was joined in the Special Order by **Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL)**, who called for



[continued research into the effect of environmental factors on children's brain development and robust support for early childhood intervention services.](#)

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) also offered comments in support of the improved Child Tax Credit, high-quality, accessible, affordable childcare and other issues that benefit children.

Members of Congress also supported Children's Week on social media...







The image shows a screenshot of a Twitter post from Senator Jeff Merkley (@SenJeffMerkley) dated June 16, 2022. The tweet discusses the importance of supporting children's health and education during Children's Week. Below the tweet, there is a 'Reply' button and a reply from Senator Merkley himself, where he mentions fighting for resources like the Child Tax Credit and affordable childcare.


Senator Jeff Merkley   @SenJeffMerkley



During Children's Week, it's important to recommit ourselves to serving our youngest Americans. Passing bills that support the health and education of our kids is vital to ensuring a bright future for everyone in our country. [#ChildrensWeek2022](#)

9:50 AM · Jun 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App





20 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 76 Likes

 Tweet your reply Reply

Senator Jeff Merkley  @SenJeffMerkley · 4h  Replying to @SenJeffMerkley

I will continue to fight for resources like the [#ChildTaxCredit](#), paid family and medical leave, and affordable, accessible childcare to provide crucial support to families across the nation and support the next generation of Americans.

 5  20  59 

....and by raising awareness around issues including the impact of U.S. foreign assistance on children and youth:

“In countries facing conflict,” said Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY) during a Children’s Week briefing on the impact of U.S. foreign assistance on youth, “it will be our young people who will bear the burden of sustaining peace over generations leading their society from reconciliation to prosperity.” Meng is a co-sponsor of the bipartisan Youth, Peace, and Security Act (H.R. 4838), which would direct

the President to create a Youth Coordinator position at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). A panel of young people from Kenya, Uganda and the United States who advocate for more effective U.S. foreign policies also joined the discussion.



The news cycle also cooperated with Childrens' Week. On the menu of good news:

- **Vaccines for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers:** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's vaccine advisory committee recommended authorization of COVID-19 vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech for use in children 6-months to 5 years old. *"It has always been important to protect our youngest children but [vaccinating them has become urgent](#) as states and federal agencies lift public health measures such as masks and required proof of vaccination," First Focus on Children President Bruce Lesley said.*
- **Public Charge:** In an extraordinarily complicated non-decision decision, the Supreme Court this week [maintained a block on the Trump](#)

[Administration's public charge policy](#). The upshot: Eligible immigrants can continue to enroll in health, nutrition and housing benefits without fear of endangering their ability to gain legal status in the U.S. Ensuring access to these benefits is critical for children, as health care, good nutrition, and housing are central to their healthy development. The Biden Administration's public charge rule is also expected to be finalized this summer...stay tuned.

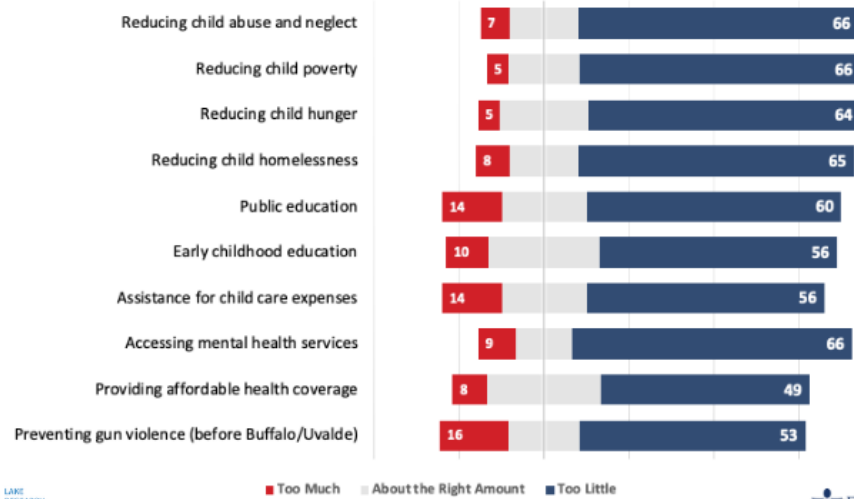
- **Gun violence talks:** Lawmakers this week began negotiating the first bipartisan agreement on gun violence in decades. Passage may be elusive, but conversation at least offers a start. "[We look forward to future negotiations with cautious optimism](#)," *First Focus on Children* President Bruce Lesley said. **Gun violence is the number one killer of children in the United States.**

Our message to the lawmakers working through these issues to protect children: Voters are on your side.

A new poll from Lake Research Partners found that [American voters believe – by a roughly 6-to-1 margin – that the federal government is spending too little on the health, safety, and well-being of our children.](#)

A nationwide poll of 1,000 likely voters conducted in May found that Americans strongly favor increasing our investments in children and prioritizing their needs in public policy, with education, child abuse, and child mental health, hunger, homelessness, and poverty leading their concern. Support for many specific programs, including the Child Tax Credit and making the Children's Health Insurance Program permanent, crosses race, gender, and party lines. **For more information, click the chart below.**

Voters: How much do we invest in kids?



■ Too Much ■ About the Right Amount ■ Too Little

Source: Lake Research Partners, May 2022



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First Focus on Children

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