



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

As the Pendulum Swings August 11, 2022

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In our last episode of “As the Pendulum Swings,” a valiant and motivated president and his Congress offered the sun, the moon and the stars to the children of the United States, working to give them health care, a livable monthly allowance and the luxury (the right?) of never going hungry.

But a turbulent wind swept through the land, and this week’s installment finds our leaders almost surgically removing children from the conversation. What promised to be the biggest investment in our children in generations is now a daytime hero, struggling for breath in the [Port Charles](#) ICU.

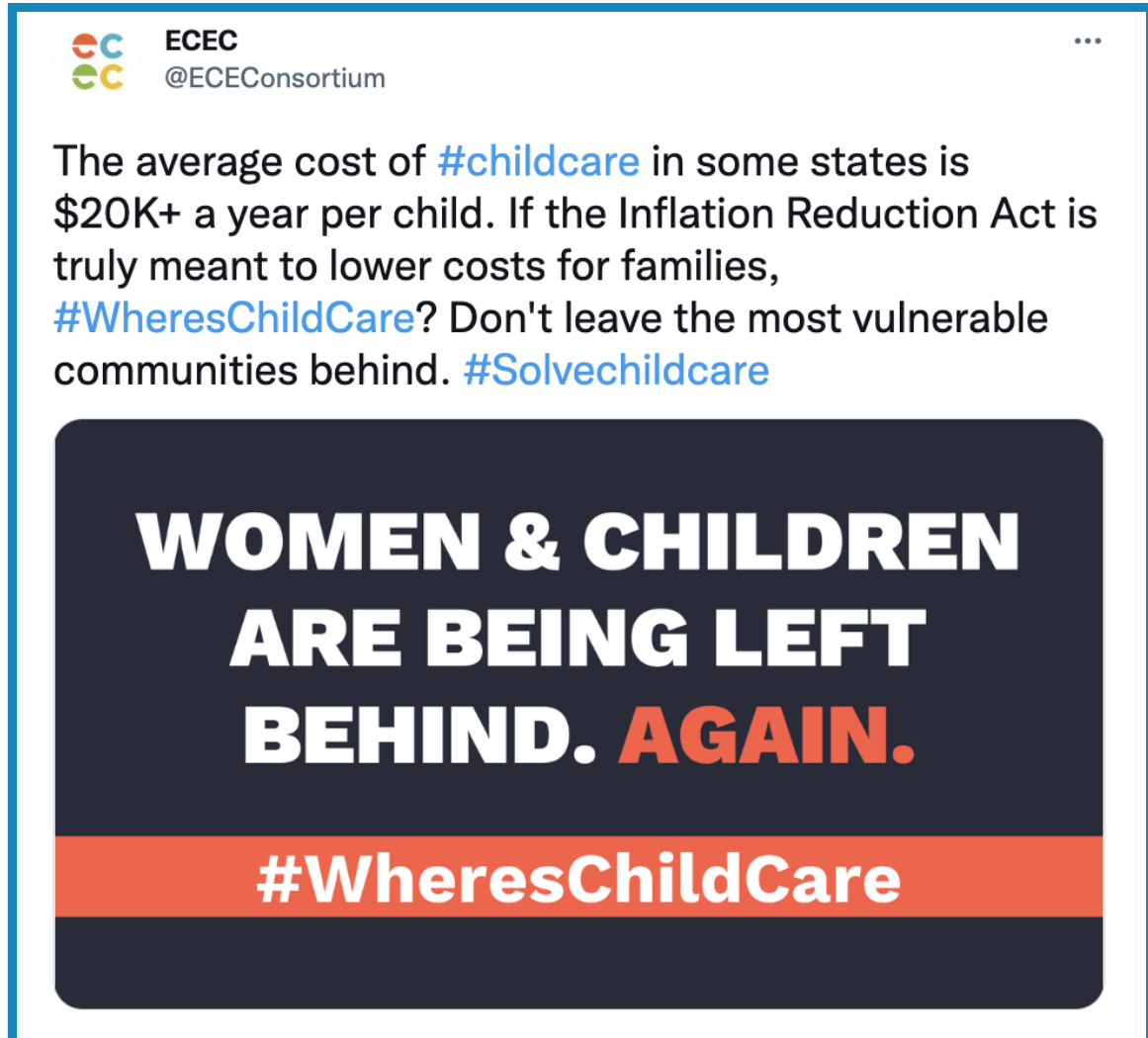
Much of Washington is hailing the Senate’s Inflation Reduction Act as a “landmark” piece of legislation. But in all the “what’s missing from this deal” stories, children were the common denominator. **To recap, the Senate’s climate, health care and tax package contains:**

- Improved **federal health care coverage!** (but not for kids)
- Cheaper **prescription drugs!** (but not for kids)
- Lower **health care premiums** (for adults) through the Affordable Care Act, a program that operates without interruption (but no uninterrupted health care coverage for children by making the Children’s Health Insurance Program permanent)
- Long-term **tax incentives** for businesses (but not for kids)

To be fair, the climate component — the [biggest climate investment in U.S. history](#) — will help protect the health of our children and the planet they inherit.

But it will not:

- [Lift 4 million children out of poverty.](#)
- Provide children with [affordable, accessible child care](#)
- Give them [free school meals](#)
- Ensure that they — and the people who bear them — receive [high-quality, uninterrupted health care.](#)



And yet, these are details. What is frankly more worrisome is the blithe dismissal of these items, the collective sense of “oh well” that seemed to pervade media reports. [One editorial](#) said “the Inflation Reduction Act makes **impressive improvements on the old status quo**,” and willfully neglects to add “for adults.” Children, meanwhile, go home empty handed.

At least for now. A quiet but persistent set of legislative protagonists are working to wake the patient from this coma. **An end-of-the-year bill** could be the iron lung that [revives the Child Tax Credit](#), [affordable child care programs](#), free meals for students, and perhaps — just perhaps — improved, expanded and continuous health care for children and the people who bear them.

Will they do it? Will they find a way?

Stay tuned.



First Focus Campaign for Children

@Campaign4Kids

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What's In the Climate, Tax and Health Care Bill - New York Times [nyti.ms/3Q8G2B4](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/11/us/politics/biden-climate-tax-health-care-bill.html)

And here is what was dropped from the House bill:

- ✗ Child Tax Credit
- ✗ Child care
- ✗ Early childhood
- ✗ Maternal child health
- ✗ Reducing child hunger



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