



# *The Kid Angle*

*Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children*

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## **50 things that Congress agrees on October 19, 2023**

Contact: Michele Kayal, VP Media and Communications,  
[MicheleK@FirstFocus.org](mailto:MicheleK@FirstFocus.org)

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From [Sesame Street](#) to [SNL](#), the world is talking about kids.

Congress could be — should be — too.

Believe it or not, when it comes to kids, there's more agreement across the aisle than in the leadership pews. [More than 50 bipartisan bills are waiting for attention](#), bills on issues such as children's health, child care, hunger and nutrition, ending child abuse, addressing child homelessness, protecting foster youth and keeping kids safe on the internet. More than 50 ways to help kids. If the leadership could just pull itself together.

Despite [extremist lawmakers' current blockade of PEPFAR](#), the program has enjoyed bipartisan support for the entire two decades of its existence. Republican Rep. Nancy Mace — one of the eight members who bounced Kevin McCarthy from the Speakership — recently sponsored a resolution calling on the United States and international donors to [prioritize investments in children and youth in development and humanitarian assistance policies, programs, and activities](#).

Bipartisan bills to [streamline children's access to Medicaid](#) and to [ensure the training of pediatricians](#) languish as the fight for power goes on. Bipartisan bills to [expand child care in rural America](#), to [protect children in foster care](#). Bipartisan bills to [ensure children have hot, nutritious meals](#) and [a roof over their heads](#). Bipartisan bills that protect children from [institutional, sexual](#) and other abuse, in person and [on the internet](#). **Bipartisan bills that basically do what societies are supposed to do: Take care of their kids.** All of these are waiting for the grown-ups to behave.

**Research shows that lawmakers who forge bipartisan ties to benefit children will end up on the right side of history – and the ballot box.** A national poll by Lake Research Partners found that [Americans strongly support increasing our investments in children and prioritizing their needs in public policy](#). Voters' support crosses race, gender, and party lines. To hear more, tune in to the [latest episode of First Focus on Children's podcast, "Speaking of Kids," featuring pollster and political strategist Celinda Lake](#).



Photo by [Adrian Cogua](#) on [Unsplash](#)

*The Kid Angle is published weekly by First Focus on Children, except during Congressional recesses.*



First Focus on Children  
1400 I Street NW  
Suite 450  
Washington, DC 20005  
United States

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