



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

10 things Congress can do right now December 1, 2022

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The 117th Congress has plenty of time to prove that a lame duck session need not be lame.

More than 200 organizations have joined First Focus Campaign for Children in calling on Congress to secure the gains made by children over the last two years before divided government takes over and refocuses the agenda on [investigations and impeachments](#).

In a letter going to the Hill next week, these advocates will urge lawmakers to prioritize tax credits that support children — the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit — over more tax breaks for large corporations. **Horse trading 101, and the apparent strategy of some Senators**. The improved CTC not only [slashed child poverty](#), it helped families fight inflation, with the overwhelming majority [spending the benefit on food, utilities, housing, education, diapers and debt reduction](#). It did all this [without the workforce Armageddon](#) predicted by the measure's critics.

First Focus Campaign for Children also [called on Congress separately to prioritize children in any legislative vehicle](#) it considers before the end of the year. Investments made under the American Rescue Plan pushed the share of federal spending on our nation's children to [nearly 12% — a record](#) — and delivered the [lowest child poverty rate in U.S. history](#).

Child-focused members of Congress — and especially our [Champions and Defenders of Children](#) — have an opportunity (obligation?) to secure and promote these gains, offering an end-of-year package that:

1. Improves the **CTC and EITC**
2. Makes the **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** permanent and establishes continuous eligibility for children and adults in CHIP and Medicaid
3. Grows the **children's mental health workforce** and infrastructure
4. Increases support for **child care and early learning**
5. Reauthorizes **child nutrition** programs and **home visiting** for families in need
6. Creates permanent **protections for immigrant youth**
7. Addresses the developmental **needs of children around the globe**
8. Improves prevention of and response to **child abuse and trafficking**
9. Advances effective **youth justice reforms**

[Voters support these priorities](#). Just as they support the Champions and Defenders of Children who promote them. That's why last month voters [returned 84 of them to Congress](#). And sent one — Rep. Karen Bass — to lead City Hall in the country's second largest city.



Sen. Brown on extending the child tax credit



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