



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

2023 Agenda for America's Children promotes health, well-being May 18, 2023

Contact: Michele Kayal, VP Media and Communications,
MicheleK@FirstFocus.org

As Congress leans into its plan to slash spending on children to near record lows and President Biden buckles to negotiate with them, First Focus Campaign for Children released its [2023 Agenda for America's Children](#), an outline for securing the future of our children — and the nation.

“The 118th Congress has an opportunity — and an obligation — to keep the country and its children moving forward,” said First Focus Campaign for Children President Bruce Lesley. “Smart investments over the last two years staunched the crisis in children’s health care, hunger, homelessness, education and general well-being. And now lawmakers face a choice: Continue the divisive, anti-child policies poised to impoverish our nation’s children and derail the economy, or embrace an [Agenda for America’s Children](#) that nurtures healthy, productive, educated citizens and the bright future they promise.”

Dozens of studies have shown that investing in children delivers enormous returns to both children and the national economy. For instance, [an extensive meta-analysis by Harvard economists Nathaniel Hendren and Ben Spring-Keyser](#) found that direct investments in the health and education of low-income children historically have yielded the highest returns, and, in fact, pay for themselves.

To put America’s children and our economy on the road to health and prosperity, lawmakers in the 118th Congress must adopt an agenda that:

- **Invests in public education** to overcome teacher shortages, reverse pandemic learning loss, and advance our democracy by nurturing engaged citizens
- **Protects children from gun violence** at home, at school and in their communities
- **Reverses the [child mortality crisis](#)** driving the unprecedented reduction in American lifespan
- **Applies the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic** to ensure that all children have food, shelter, medical care and other life necessities
- **Creates affordable, high-quality child care and early education programs** that prepare children for life and allow parents and caregivers to fuel the country’s economy
- **Fights climate change** and secures the environment to protect kids now and in the future
- **Centers children and their needs** in all policy and budget decisions

[Parents](#) want this agenda. [Voters](#) support this agenda. [Children need this agenda.](#)

View the complete [Children's Agenda for the 118th Congress at this link.](#)



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First Focus on Children
1400 I Street NW
Suite \$50
Washington, DC 20005
United States

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