



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

6 Consequences of Losing Build Back Better

December 22, 2021

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Share of spending on children will plummet

Lawmakers delivered very little holiday cheer to children before leaving town. After Sen. Joe Manchin appeared to tank the Build Back Better legislation (igniting a [courtship with Republicans](#)), Senate Majority Leader Schumer vowed to [bring it to a vote](#) when Congress returns in January. Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA) and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) have put forward good ideas for salvaging key provisions, but it's likely to be a long, dark struggle. We sat down to tally just a few of the things that will be lost if this once-in-a-generation legislation fails:

6 consequences of losing Build Back Better

1. If, as expected, Build Back Better fails and Congress implements a long-term Continuing Resolution, the share of federal spending on children will once again skirt the historic lows reached under the Trump Administration, [which bottomed out at 7.6%](#)
2. Renewal of the Children's Health Insurance Program, which was to become permanent, will resume its status as a political bargaining chip, imperiling the health of the 10 million children it covers
3. Nearly 4 million children will be [pushed back into poverty](#) just in time for the new year

4. The 27 million children who benefited most from the expanded Child Tax Credit — those in the very lowest income families — will return to receiving little or nothing at all. This number will encompass [half of all Black and Hispanic children, and half of children in rural communities](#).
5. We will forfeit two decades of work — initiated by President George W. Bush and supported and nurtured by successive Republican and Democratic presidents — to achieve a Child Tax Credit that reaches the children who need it most.
6. The cost of child poverty will continue to sap [more than \\$1 trillion from the U.S. economy](#) each year.

It's a good thing that puppies make everything better.



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