



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

Children still in danger as Title 42 ends

May 11, 2023

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

The infamous public-health-turned-immigration-policy known as Title 42 expires today at 11:59pm.

But for some children, the troubles are just beginning. Awaiting migrant children and families at the stroke of midnight are:

- An [asylum ban that will punish children](#), which First Focus on Children [vehemently opposes](#). The [Biden Administration finalized this rule](#) just in time to make up for the end of Title 42.
- Expansion of expedited processing at the border, which will [deny children in families a fair chance to make claims for protection](#).
- [Myriad bills](#) in Congress that would enshrine harm to children as the law of the land, including [one passed just a few minutes ago](#) that would embrace bans, bars, and jails for children and families seeking safety.

The Biden Administration tried to soften the blow of continued restrictions by announcing expansions to [refugee resettlement and parole programs that allow family reunification and safe pathways to the United States](#). **But those measures cannot replace the legal right to seek asylum at our border.**

Title 42 was a disaster for children. The policy was used [2.8 million times](#) to turn away individuals and children in families. In the roughly two years between March 2020 and May 2022, the U.S. government used Title 42 to [expel 125,000 children — including 30,000 infants and toddlers](#). **Almost a third of these children were removed in the middle of the night.** Title 42 [separated thousands of children](#) from family. In fact, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [recommended](#) in January 2022 that the U.S. immediately end Title 42, saying that the policy “compel[led]” family separation.

We finally have an opportunity to do better. Better means centering our immigration policies on children, which [the American people believe](#) all federal policies must do. Better means processing families in a way that keeps them together, provides humanitarian assistance, and connects them with government-supported organizations providing shelter, reception, and support to reach final destinations. It means offering children and families appropriate resources to navigate the immigration system and allowing them to claim protection within a meaningful timeframe.

Tomorrow marks the “after Title 42” stage of our history. The question remains:

Will we be a nation that measures our success by the number of children we reject — or the number we protect?



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

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).