



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

Down but not out

January 27, 2022

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Champions fight for CTC, children's agenda

The Senate returns to Washington on Monday, but [Champions for Children](#) aren't wasting any time. Democratic Sens. Michael Bennet (Colo.), Sherrod Brown (Ohio), Cory Booker (N.J.) Raphael Warnock (Ga. — *Champion-in-waiting?*) and Ron Wyden (Ore.) urged President Biden this week [to make the improved Child Tax Credit “a centerpiece” of any deal on Build Back Better](#).

The politics of this legislation are an hour-to-hour kind of story, but one element never changes: The CTC kept [4 million children out of poverty](#) every month and helped American kids and families [pay for items including food, clothing, child care](#), etc.

- **First Focus on Children's Cara Baldari** [told NBC this week](#) that the CTC is not “a private family issue” but something that affects us all. She noted that First Focus on Children has urged the Administration to [create a child poverty target](#) by executive order, establish an interagency coordinating council for children, track federal investment in children with a [Children's Budget](#) and take other actions on behalf of children.



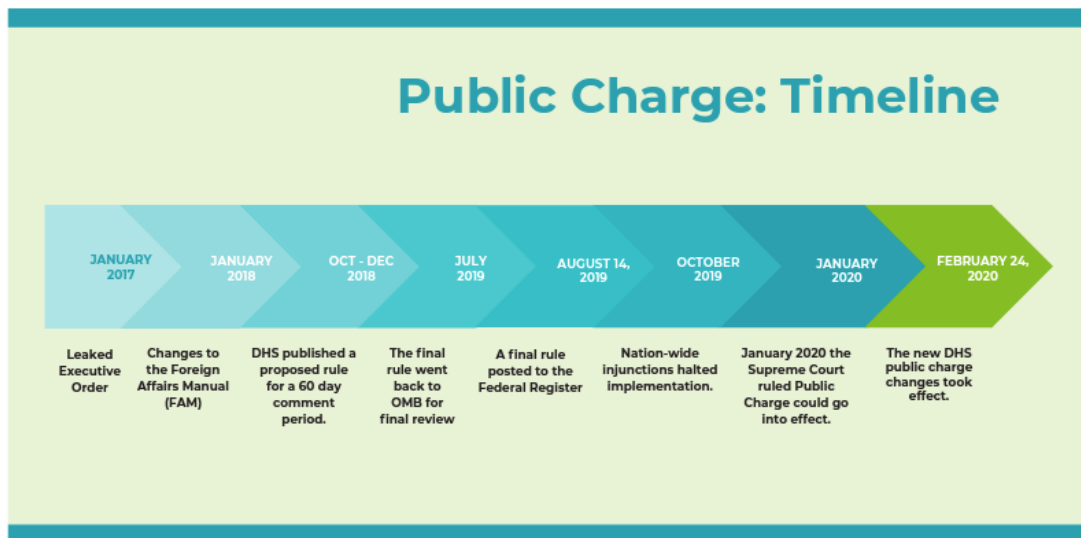
[Getty Images via NPR](#)

Immigration

Public charge and SNAP

The Biden Administration this week clarified that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly known as [food stamps, is *not* subject to the public charge rule](#), and urged states to ensure that immigrant families realize they can access the program without fear. [First Focus on Children asked the Administration over the summer to take this important step.](#)

The Trump Administration wielded the public charge rule as a bludgeon against immigrant children and families, frightening them away from public benefit programs to which they are entitled. In Texas alone, SNAP saw a [13.5% reduction](#) in enrollment between December 2017 and April 2019.



Courtesy of [Children's Defense Fund-Texas](#)

Family separation and what we can do about it

First Focus on Children this week answered a call for comments on [ending and preventing family separation at the U.S. border with the following recommendations:](#)

- Pursue **redress and accountability** for separated families
- Issue guidance based on the **right to family unity and due process**
- Eliminate all other **deterrence-based policies** that result in family separation
- Deploy standards, processes, and entities governed by a “**best interests of the child**” standard.

More than 5,500 children were separated from their families between 2017 and 2020. Even now, *thousands* of children remain separated. [Find the full comment on our website.](#)



EYES PEELED: On Monday, January 31, First Focus on Children will join Moms Rising, Care Can't Wait and more than 250 other organizations in a New York Times open letter urging U.S. Senators to keep fighting for sweeping improvements to child care and pre-K, paid family and medical leave, home- and community-based services, and the Child Tax Credit.

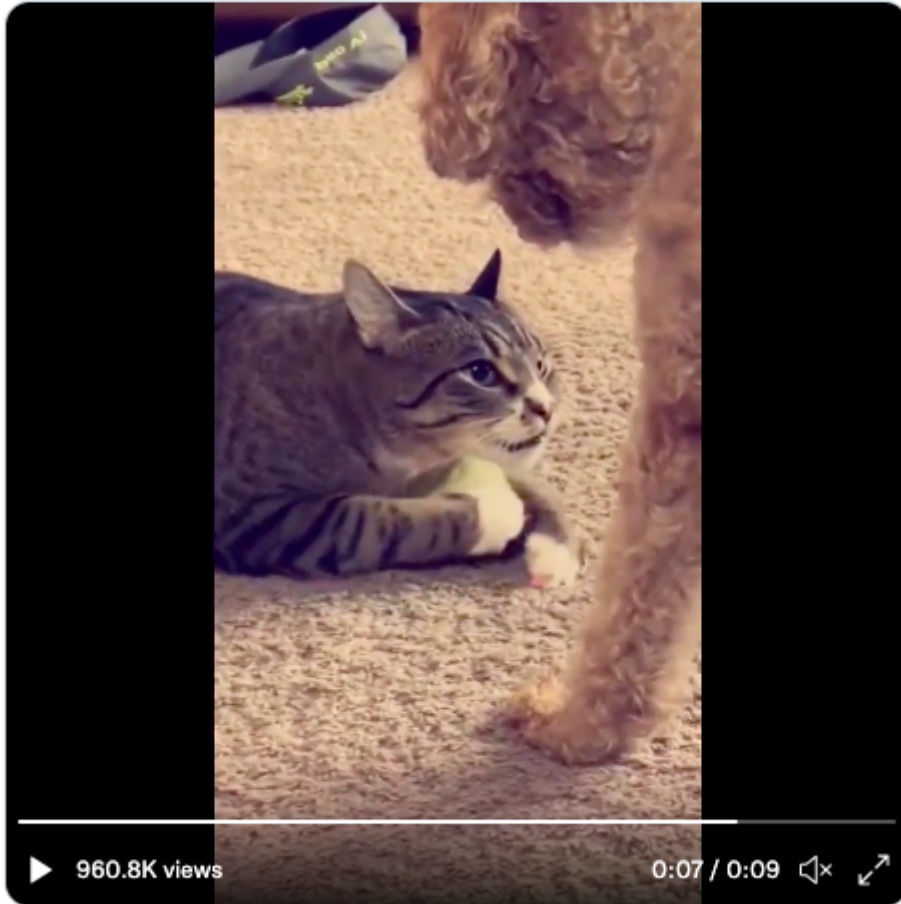
A tactic to use with ornery Senators?



Yog
@Yoda4ever



Cat steals ball right under nose of dog. 🐱🏀🐶😂



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