



## ***The Kid Angle***

*Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children*

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### **'False narrative' fades on Romney 2.0 September 8, 2022**

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#### **Sen. Brown pledges to "lay down in front of a bulldozer"**

The more we learn about Sen. Romney's plan to improve the Child Tax Credit, the shorter it falls.

Sen. Romney's robbing-Peter-to-pay-Paul strategy would offset generous expansion of the CTC by cutting benefits to low- and moderate-income families, particularly single-parent families. The plan would raise taxes on the families of more than 16 million children, according to a [new report from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy](#). And these 16 million would include the very poorest children in America. Fully one-quarter of all children under 17 would be in families that pay higher taxes under the Romney plan, according to ITEP, and nearly 2.7 million affected children would be among the country's poorest. The National Academy of Sciences has long identified the CTC as [our single best tool for cutting child poverty](#). Clearly, Romney 2.0 does not get the job done.

**The cherry on top will be next week's census data: Our policy experts expect those numbers to show a record-breaking decline in child poverty, an outcome that will only reinforce just how effective the 2021 CTC has been.** This evidence of what is *possible* should be our baseline. Not the appalling status quo.

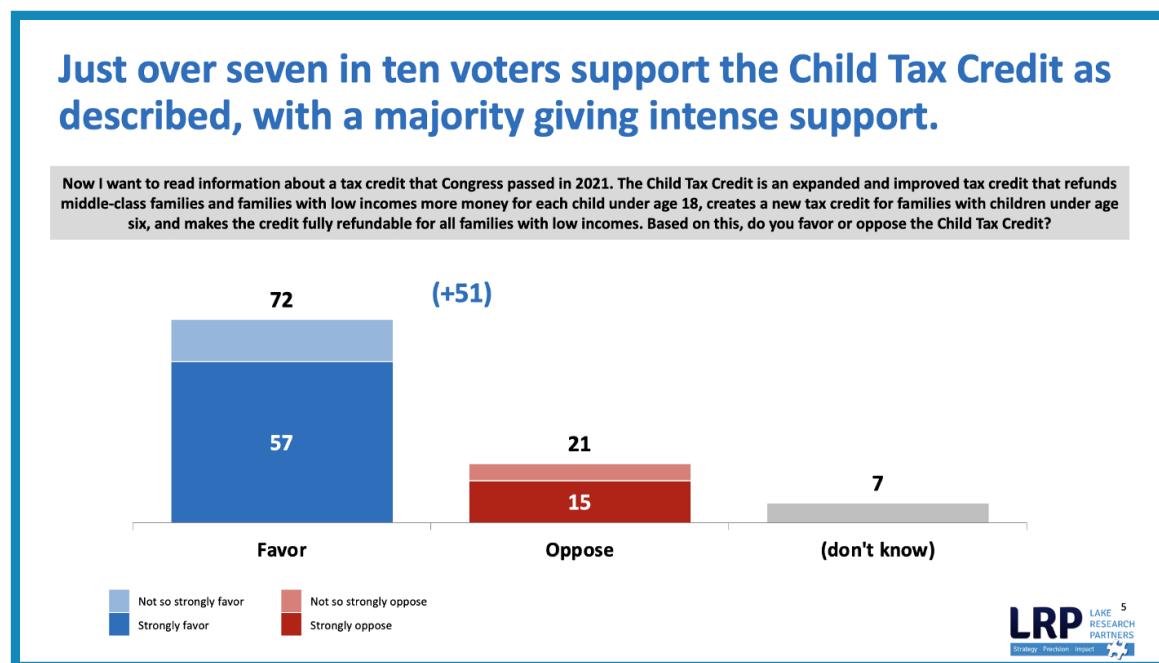
Where did this **false narrative** come from, that [Romney 2.0 is the starting point](#) for all conversation around the Child Tax Credit?

Sen. Romney's original proposal hued closely to priorities long held by CTC proponents. In some cases he even did them one better, for instance, increasing the credit to \$4,200 for children under age 6. The [Champions for Children](#) who have spent decades promoting the CTC's poverty-cutting power are not the underdogs everyone seems to think they are. They have a clear path to creating a robust, game-changing CTC.

**The catch:** Creating a meaningful CTC improvement will require the same good, old-fashioned compromise skills lawmakers used to reach the Inflation Reduction Act. Why not have a fair trade — say, R&D tax credits for truly meaningful CTC improvements that lift the maximum number of children out of poverty? **Sen. Sherrod Brown, one of those OGs on the CTC, recently suggested this might be his strategy (and that he'll "[lay down in front of a bulldozer](#)" to make it happen).** We would urge lawmakers to go one step further: Those who want the R&D credits get to write it. The CTC proponents get to write that. Then each side holds its nose. And together they deliver an end-of-the-year bill that not only benefits children, but helps re-establish Congress as a functioning branch of government.

Voters WANT the improved Child Tax Credit. [They can't be any more clear.](#)

And we as a nation should want to keep our children out of poverty. ALL of our children.



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