



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

Fixing the "family glitch" June 30, 2022

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PLUS, updates on the Child Tax Credit, SCOTUS

Fixing the Family Glitch: First Focus on Children has thrown its support behind the Biden Administration's plan to fix the so-called "family glitch," which keeps families from accessing affordable health insurance coverage. First Focus on Children's Vice President for Health Systems Elaine Dalpiaz told Treasury officials during a hearing this week that while premiums for self-only health insurance coverage average \$7,739 a year, premiums for family coverage average \$22,221 a year – nearly triple the cost.

"It's not that we are asking these families to 'pay a little bit more,'" Dalpiaz said. "We are asking these low-income families to pay a *lot* more. Not one, not two but *three* times the cost."

Approximately **2.8 million children fall into the family glitch** each year, most from low-income families. Without affordable health care, these children often forgo well-child visits, routine vaccinations, and specialty care for chronic conditions, endangering their immediate and long-term health.

The Administration's proposal would clarify that family members of workers who are offered affordable self-only coverage but **unaffordable** family coverage may qualify for premium tax credits to buy ACA coverage. For more on the Family Glitch, **please see our [Fact Sheet](#)**.

Road to Reconciliation (but *not* the Child Tax Credit): Negotiations continue with Senate naysayer Joe Manchin (D-WV) on a reconciliation package, but word is that a deal will **not** include tax provisions for children. Without including improvements to the Child Tax Credit (and with child care provisions uncertain) reconciliation could be limited to climate change and health care investments. Then again, reconciliation could fail altogether, leaving critically important child provisions for what could be a Herculean end-of-year push.



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SCOTUS gets busy

- **Immigration**: The Supreme Court ruled this morning that President Biden can end the Trump Administration’s “Remain in Mexico” policy, which forced asylum seekers arriving at the southern border to wait outside the U.S. for their hearings. The program exposed children to violence, family separation, and sham court proceedings that denied them due process. **The decision is good news for children and families who are pursuing asylum claims.** That said...kids at the border still face [expulsion under Title 42](#) and [expedited asylum cases](#), which deny them protection in violation of U.S. asylum law and due process. These policies lead to tragedies like the one this week, where more than 50 people including children died while entering the country. First Focus on Children is pushing lawmakers to restore the nation’s asylum system and center it on the needs of children. **What would child-centered border policies look like? Read more [here](#).**
- **Education**: The high court also handed down **two rulings with enormous implications for freedom of religion and speech in schools.** In **Kennedy v. Bremerton**, the justices ruled 6-3 in favor of Kennedy, a football coach placed on administrative leave after he defied the school district’s request to stop leading Christian prayer on the field and in the locker room. By functionally overruling the 1971 case that declared public funding for religious schools unconstitutional, the court has cleared the way for teachers and staff in public schools to actively inject religion into school activities, violating the long-held neutrality of public schools. In **Carson v. Makin**, the court again ruled 6-3 that if states give public funding to any private schools, vouchers also must be available to religious schools, including those that pursue discriminatory measures against LGBTQ+ students.



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