

The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

Giving kids an impossible choice

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The media's given ample coverage to [President Biden's recent border visit](#) and the accompanying proclamations suggesting his border toughness. However, one item in particular, has been largely overlooked and spells real trouble for children.

The Administration has said that in the next few weeks [it intends publish a proposed rule reviving two Trump-era asylum bans](#). The first element of the rule, known as "asylum ban 1.0" under the Trump Administration, would deny migrants asylum if they do not cross the border at designated ports of entry. The second, sometimes called the "transit ban," would essentially deny asylum procedures to migrants who come through a third country without applying for asylum there.

Not only have **U.S. federal courts already declared [both](#) of these [bans](#) illegal**, the proposed regulation revives a [particularly wrenching way of separating families](#).

The Trump Administration applied these bans to unaccompanied children, meaning the youngsters were expected not only to know exactly where to cross the border, but to navigate the U.S. asylum process on their own. Most adults (most U.S. citizen adults!) can't do that. Even if the Biden Administration exempts unaccompanied children, they're unlikely to exempt children in families. **In English: A child's choice would be to leave their family and cross the border alone to seek asylum or to stay with their family and forgo hopes of asylum.** Both situations are lose-lose for children and for their families. And, frankly, for the United States' [rule of law, which very plainly spells out](#) that people fleeing violence or oppression can seek asylum here no matter how or where they enter the country.

[Many advocates](#) and some members of Congress are urging the Administration to abandon these dangerous and inhumane plans. The bans were wrong before. They are wrong now.

And what could be the goal of such policies? Certainly not to create an orderly asylum process that keeps people safe. And **certainly not to [protect and support children](#)**.

