



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

**How to keep kids center stage in the national discussion
March 3, 2022**

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

"Most references ever" in State of the Union address

In his first State of the Union address this week, President Biden hit all the right notes on children. He called for [measures to fight child poverty, cut the exorbitant cost of child care, curb gun violence, tackle the mental health crisis among our kids, and protect them from social media's insipid reach.](#) First Focus on Children President Bruce Lesley — our Tweeter-in-Chief — counted more mentions of children than in any past SOTU.



Bruce Lesley
@BruceLesley



I have attempted to tweet all reference to children in the [#SOTU](#) [#StateOfTheUnion](#) for years now. This was, by far, the most references to children ever.

In the Trump years, the only references tended to be to his children.

Let's do right by children - now, more than ever.



10:24 PM · Mar 1, 2022 · Tweetbot for iOS

As always, we would have liked to see more. First Focus immigration lead Miriam Abaya welcomed the president's recommitment to immigration reform, including citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, farm workers and essential workers, but was disappointed that his discussion of root causes and the border focused on enforcement rather than on **orderly, humanitarian processing and making families and children feel safe in their communities**. Olivia Gomez, our environmental issues lead, appreciated the president's commitment to replace lead pipes in homes and schools, but was hoping for **more on climate change**.

While the Child Tax Credit received an honorable mention to ensure children are not raised in poverty, more must be said — and done.

The **61-million-child question** is whether upcoming **talks between Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT) and the White House**:

1. Actually happen
2. Get anything done. Sen. Romney has said he will consider adding work requirements to his proposal, which have proven at least as likely to increase poverty as to decrease it. He has also proposed paying for CTC improvements by ditching other anti-poverty programs and tax provisions. A Peter-to-pay-Paul approach.

Kids and COVID: Keeping kids center stage

Two years after the first COVID-19 cases were detected in the United States, nearly 13 million children have contracted the disease, more than 5 million have lost a caregiver and our youngest children remain unvaccinated.

Starting this month, First Focus on Children will gather experts, advocates, lawmakers and pediatricians in a series of events to discuss the impacts of the pandemic and its economic fallout on children's physical and mental health, rising homelessness, interrupted education, child poverty and other critical topics.

Full schedule of events coming soon.

In the meantime, special shout out to this incredibly brave (and adorable) kid:

