



# *The Kid Angle*

*Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children*

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## Lawmakers tackle inequity, investing in kids

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Lawmakers have spent [Children's Week 2023](#) promoting measures to combat inequity, secure investment in the next generation and harness the growing momentum around ensuring the well-being of our nation's children.

Today, **First Focus on Children** co-hosted the [first-ever joint event of the leaders of the Congressional Dads Caucus, the Congressional Mamas' Caucus and the Congressional Baby Caucus](#). Reps. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA), Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) told Administration officials, advocates and others gathered at the Library of Congress that lawmakers must do more to mitigate the high cost of raising a child in the United States and must work to improve the social safety net that keeps families out of poverty.

"It's not just the right thing to do," Rep. DeLauro said, "it's the smart thing to do."

Earlier in the week, [Sen. Cory Booker \(D-NJ\) and Rep. Ayanna Pressley \(D-MA\) laid out their visions to end wealth inequality, highlighting "Baby Bonds" and the American Opportunity Accounts Act](#) at an event hosted by Prosperity Now. Florida State Rep. Anna Eskamani and PEN America's Jonathan Friedman joined First Focus on Children for a [conversation about the challenges facing the country's public schools](#), from censorship and anti-LGBTQ policies to bans on curriculum and social-emotional learning.

We'll wrap up Children's Week tomorrow with a virtual briefing on [new research about how the 2021 improvements to the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit](#) aided more than 60 million of the nation's children. Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) offer recorded remarks.

Bright spots of Congressional action punctuated the week. Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden (D-OR) convened a committee hearing on [anti-poverty and family support provisions in the tax code](#) and on Wednesday, Sens. Brown, Bennet, Booker, Warnock, Wyden and Durbin [reintroduced the Working Families Tax Relief Act](#), which makes permanent the 2021 improvements to the Child Tax Credit and also expands the Earned Income Tax Credit to reach more foster youth and youth experiencing homelessness. The bill came just one week after [Reps. DeLauro, Suzan DelBene \(D-WA\) and Ritchie Torres \(D-NY\) reintroduced the American Family Act](#), which permanently expands the Child Tax Credit and extends it to everyone in need, even those previously excluded. [Under current law, one-third of our nation's children fail to qualify for the full Child Tax Credit because their parents make too little.](#)

These measures couldn't come at a better time. Kids are still battling the setbacks of the pandemic, and so far, there's no relief in sight. In fact, [KFF Health News recently reported](#) that tens of thousands of kids are losing medical coverage that was extended during the pandemic. Children are struggling with a mental health crisis, a [mortality crisis](#), learning loss and other challenges.

Lawmakers stepped up during [Children's Week 2023](#) to offer a reprieve from the dismal news. Now it's time to make every week Children's Week.



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