



## ***The Kid Angle***

***Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children***

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**News, glorious (kid) news**

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### **Cherry picking+vaccines, with a stop for Paris (Hilton)**

#### **Reconciliation: Cherry picking should be saved for pie**

President Biden's sweeping plan to secure America's future by prioritizing children has hit the skids in Congress. Surprise, surprise. The overall package likely will be pared to below \$2 trillion and the worst part is that many of the cuts may be taken from our kids. Congress has before it the opportunity to:

- **Slash child poverty** through investments like the child tax credit.
- **Prioritize children's health** by funding the Children's Health Insurance Program the same way we do every other healthcare program
- **Reverse the dramatic spikes in food insecurity** seen during the pandemic
- **Save the struggling child care system** and give our economy the crucial boost it needs
- **Prevent youth homelessness**
- Invest in **school infrastructure**
- ***and much more.***

First Focus on Children is calling on lawmakers to **pass *all* child-related items in the reconciliation package**. These provisions are not separate policies to

choose from. They are a collective that when enacted together will improve the health and well-being of our children, our economy and our country's future.

### **Vaccine plan marks victory for little kids:**

Federal regulators will soon decide whether children 5-to-11-years-old can receive the COVID-19 vaccine and the Biden Administration has announced a plan — [a plan!!](#) — to get shots into those little arms. [First Focus on Children began calling for a comprehensive, clearly articulated plan to vaccinate the nation's children in April 2021.](#)

### **Among our current recommendations:**

- Create a public education and communications campaign to enable families to make informed decisions and to fight back against misinformation that they may be seeing
- Use all available federal resources and existing programs for sharing information and reaching families
- Hold listening sessions for caregivers to learn about their concerns and effective ways to address them
- Establish an explicit goal of eliminating racial and other disparities in children's vaccinations.

We never want to say “I told you so,” but....

[Find our press release at this link.](#)

### **All aboard for Paris (Hilton):**

[First Focus on Children's Aubrey Edwards-Luce joined influencer Paris Hilton this week](#) to urge oversight of the “troubled teen industry,” a congregate care system that has institutionalized trauma and abuse of many children who land there. Reps. Ro Khanna (D-CA), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) expect to introduce a bill shortly that will create a bill of rights for children in congregate care. Meanwhile, [see Aubrey's remarks here.](#)



**Remembering Gen. Colin Powell, Champion for Children:**

Many people will focus on Gen. Powell's accomplishments as a military leader and as Secretary of State. But we will always know him — and hope that others will too — as a true Champion for Children. [Find out why in our remembrance.](#)

