



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

Pre-recess bills coming down June 23, 2022

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

As Congress races to finish its work before the July 4 recess, lawmakers have delivered a flurry of bills and proposals. The policy team at First Focus on Children is currently dissecting the House and Senate gun bills, but in the meantime, here's **The Kid Angle** on a few other things:

Hunger and Nutrition: House and Senate negotiators this week agreed to language for the Keep Kids Fed Act (*it passed in the House less than an hour ago*), which would provide funding and flexibility to support school nutrition programs, summer feeding programs, and child care providers as they respond to supply chain challenges and high food costs for the coming school year. Specifically, the bill would increase reimbursements to schools and child care facilities to help offset rising food costs, extend summer nutrition waivers through the summer, increase access to free school meals for children currently eligible only for reduced price meals, and streamline access to healthy meals for children in family child care. The bill, if passed in the Senate, will keep millions of children from going hungry this summer and during the upcoming school year. **First Focus on Children has urged Congress to go even further, and to fully and permanently stabilize the school and summer nutrition safety net**, which has literally been a lifeline for millions of children.



Courtesy Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Child Welfare: Child welfare advocates have long supported **updating child welfare policy so more children can safely and expeditiously leave foster care for safe, stable, and permanent family.** First Focus Campaign for Children this week wrote in [support of The 21st Century Children and Families Act](#), which will (1) decrease the number of children in foster care who become legal orphans by updating policies related to the termination of parental rights and (2) increase the pool of supportive adults who can give children a permanent family.

Plus, fact-finding mission to child migrant intake sites

In other news, during a recent [fact-finding trip to the Emergency Intake Sites \(EIS\) for unaccompanied children](#) at Pecos and Fort Bliss, Texas, First Focus on Children and the Women's Refugee Commission found improved conditions — including improved reunification time of children with families, better compliance with sexual abuse prevention standards, upgraded hygiene — and continuing challenges. Ongoing concerns include insufficient therapeutic services for children, lack of privacy for legal, therapeutic and personal issues, lack of outdoor time and, generally, the fact that large-scale, unlicensed facilities are highly inappropriate for any child. [Find the full report at this link.](#)

AND.....free COVID shots for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that children aged six months to five years with Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage **are eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations without cost-sharing**. The announcement comes after the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this week approved both the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children six months through four years of age and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for children six months through five years of age, marking a historic milestone in the nation's fight against the virus.



Courtesy Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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