



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

SOTU should tout achievements for kids — and ask for more

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In the run up to Tuesday's State of the Union address, President Biden has begun reminding us of his Administration's achievements: Infrastructure bill (yay, trains!), falling gas prices, tamed inflation...

But he has yet to mention what may be his greatest achievement of all: Several pieces of legislation that protect children now and in the future, and that also, by the way, lifted roughly 3 million of them out of poverty. Here are some of the things we'd like to see President Biden crow about in Tuesday's address:

Historic investments to manage climate change: Children will bear the brunt of climate change and environmental pollution, both as the generation that inherits the planet and because they face greater health risks than adults from toxins in the environment. The Inflation Reduction Act's monumental investment in fighting climate change and securing the environment will protect kids now and in the future.

First meaningful gun violence measure in nearly three decades: Gun violence is the number one cause of death for children in this country. Yes, you read that right. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act offers a lesson on how the issue of protecting our children can unify the most bitter combatants. We applaud the bill's investment in mental health infrastructure and its effort to address gun violence. And we would like to see much, much more of this.

Extending health insurance to an additional 2.8 million children: [President Biden's Administration fixed the "family glitch."](#) a hiccup in the Affordable Care Act that made health insurance prohibitively expensive for the families of nearly 3 million children.

Improved kitchen table economics and cut child poverty: The enhanced Child Tax Credit contained in the Build Back Better Act, with its increased value, monthly distributions, and wider inclusion, provided breathing room to [nearly 40 million U.S. households with children](#). The expanded, monthly credit [helped families meet essential costs](#), improved child health and nutrition, and cut child poverty nearly in half in 2021 alone.

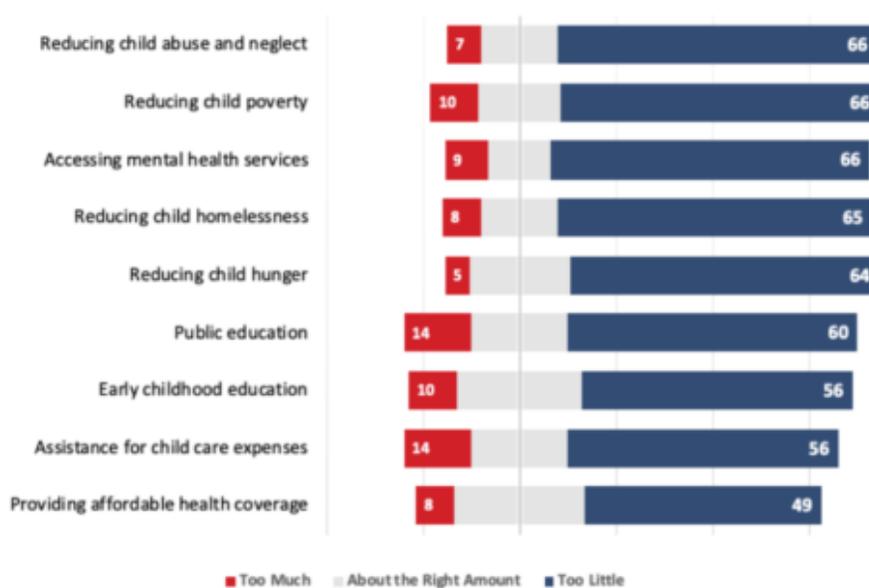
On Tuesday, we'd like to see the President tout these successful responses to the crushing needs of America's children — AND use the opportunity to call for next steps.

President Biden must call on Congress — especially one so deeply divided — to rally around children as a unifying force. To ditch discussions of adult "deservedness" when it comes to feeding children and lifting them out of poverty. To do for kids what they've done for adults, i.e. cap insulin prices for children like Joshua Davis, a SOTU 2022 distinguished guest whose family struggles to afford this life-saving prescription drug. To protect and nurture children's health and well-being so that they — and we as a nation — can thrive.

This approach even offers a winning strategy with voters. A recent poll from Lake Research Partners found that [voters strongly support centering federal policy on children and investing in their future](#).

SOTU presents the President with a rare opportunity to take a victory lap and, simultaneously, advance his agenda. All to the benefit of children.

POLL: How much do we #InvestInkids?



Source: Lake Research Partners, May 2022



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