

## The Kid Angle

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

# The tragedy of Uvalde May 26, 2022

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### Gun violence is the #1 cause of death among U.S. children

Ten years ago, the nation was shocked when 20 children and six adults were slaughtered by a gunman at a Connecticut elementary school. There were thoughts and prayers. But no legislation. Nothing to stop it from happening again. And so, it happened again Tuesday.

In fact, Tuesday's massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas wasn't the first school shooting this year — we've had <u>27 in the 21 weeks since</u> <u>January</u> began. But it was notable as the deadliest since 2012. How many more times must we undergo this horrific national déjà vu? Ten years ago, <u>First Focus on Children called for</u> the creation of a Children's Ombudsman to coordinate and focus efforts to preserve and enhance the lives and needs of our children, and for Congress to examine and propose legislative solutions to the most complex issues threatening their well-being. <u>We are still calling for those</u> things.

In the meantime, there's been one major shift in our country: **Gun violence is** now the number one cause of death among our nation's children.

We can never be ashamed enough.

We honor and grieve for the precious children who were murdered in their classroom this week, their "fancy shoes" on their tiny feet, and for the teachers who died caring for them. We grieve for the parents and families, now forever

changed, and tethered to a life of anguish. In the coming days, the children, teachers and families of Robb Elementary School will need rigorous and compassionate support and mental health services. We can only hope they get what they need.

We will continue to stand with our fellow advocates working to protect our children from gun violence.

### Sen. Chris Murphy asks "What are we doing?"



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