

## *The Kid Angle*

*Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children*

---

**14 ways that Congress must help kids NOW (plus, one more...)**

**July 15, 2021**

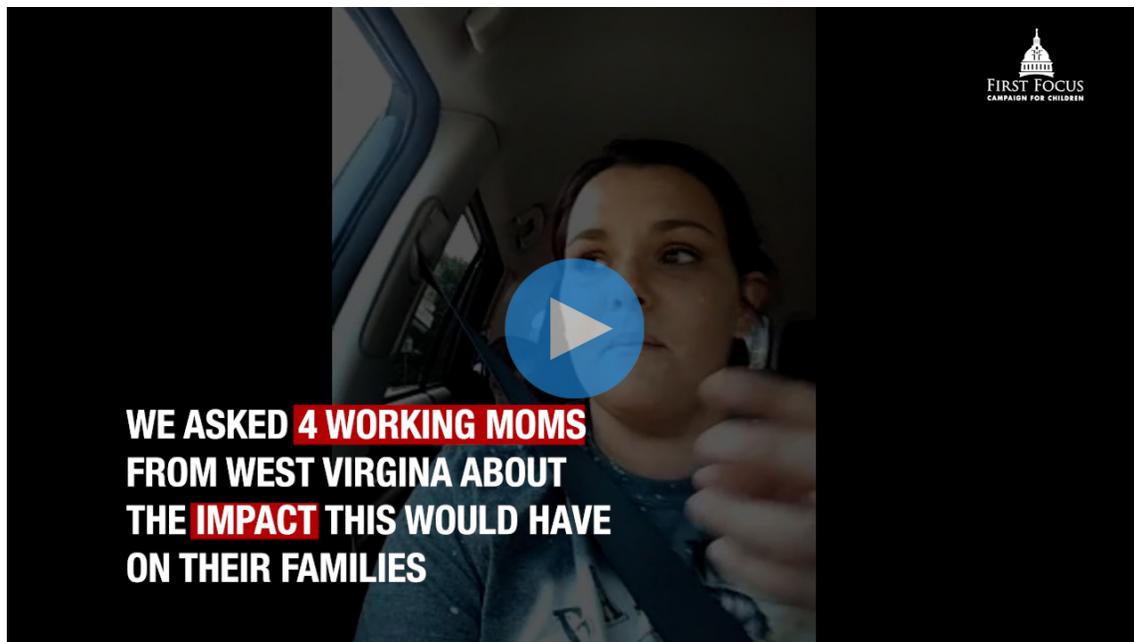
Text/Call/Email: [Michele Kayal](#), VP Media and Communications, 703-919-8778

---

Let's start with the +1, since it's top-of-mind today:

### **+1. Make improved and expanded CTC *permanent***

Today, 39 million households — or 90% of kids and their families — began receiving monthly cash payments of up to \$300 per child. **We spoke to four West Virginia working moms about how the money will change their families' lives — at least for the next six months.** It's worth noting that **making the tax cut permanent would benefit 93% of West Virginia's children** — but not a single member of the state's Congressional delegation has signed on. (Yes, we're looking at you Joe Manchin.)



### **14 ways that Congress must help kids NOW**

Research shows that [an overwhelming majority of voters — regardless of political affiliation](#) — believe that federal policy and budgets should be set according to a “best interest of the child” standard. In our [Children's Agenda for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress](#), the expert policy team at First Focus Campaign for Children offers groundbreaking solutions in every area of policy — from taxes to health care, nutrition, immigration, education, juvenile justice, child care, foreign affairs and other critical issues — as well as recommendations for specific legislation that Congress should enact to achieve them. Why? Because every issue is a children's issue. **#ItsAKidsIssue**

Here's a topline preview of what you'll find in the report ([click on the image to download the one-pager](#)):

## A CHILDREN'S AGENDA FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

*EVERY ISSUE IS A CHILDREN'S ISSUE*

- 1

**Prioritize Kids in Policy Making** by adopting a children's budget, appointing an Independent Children's Commissioner to identify policy impacts on children, and establishing a Best Interest of the Child standard for federal policy. [Read more](#)
- 2

**End Child Poverty** by enacting a national target to cut child poverty at least in half so we can sustain and then build upon progress made on child poverty under the American Rescue Plan. [Read more](#)
- 3

**Improve the Tax Code** by making recent improvements to the Child Tax Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit permanent, offering rent relief, and establishing baby bonds for kids' futures. [Read more](#)
- 4

**End Child & Family Homelessness** by reforming federal homelessness assistance to meet children's needs, increasing access to affordable housing for families with children, and improving legal protections that prevent evictions. [Read more](#)
- 5

**Ensure Health Coverage for All Children** by making the Children's Health Insurance Program permanent, guaranteeing continuous coverage for kids ages 0-5, and expanding health care coverage access for immigrant families. [Read more](#)
- 6

**Improve Child and Maternal Health** by providing comprehensive supports to pregnant people, investing in home visiting programs, expanding vaccine access, and training providers in treating childhood trauma. [Read more](#)
- 7

**Restore Environmental Health** by pursuing environmental justice for marginalized communities, protecting children from exposure to toxins and lead, and investing in programs that combat the effects of climate change. [Read more](#)



**FIRST FOCUS**  
CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN

# A CHILDREN'S AGENDA FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

EVERY ISSUE IS A CHILDREN'S ISSUE

8

**End Child Hunger and Improve Child Nutrition** by strengthening WIC and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, investing in universal school meals, and expanding access to high-quality nutrition programs. [Read more](#)

9

**Protect Immigrant Children & Keep Families Together** by guaranteeing children fair immigration proceedings and access to legal protections, prioritizing community-based care, and providing a pathway to citizenship. [Read more](#)

10

**Make Child Welfare Work for Kids** by improving access to medical and dental care for foster children, addressing racial inequities in the foster care system, and protecting children from the trauma of unnecessary removal. [Read more](#)

11

**Restore Justice for Children** by fully funding youth-focused equity and prevention efforts, using adolescent development science to inform juvenile justice practices, and phasing out detention and correctional facilities for youth. [Read more](#)

12

**Invest in Educational Equity** by addressing the over-criminalization of students of color and students with disabilities, adequately paying teachers, and expanding career readiness programs and mental health supports. [Read more](#)

13

**Prioritize Children in International Policy** by updating federal systems for tracking spending abroad, improving early childhood development programs, and promoting girls' well-being and access to education. [Read more](#)

14

**Provide High-Quality, Affordable Child Care** by increasing pay for early learning educators, funding universal pre-K for three- and four-year-olds, and capping the amount families pay out-of-pocket for child care. [Read more](#)



## Bonus material:

### A Budget to Build Back Better

The \$3.5 trillion budget announced yesterday by Congressional Democrats aims to fulfill the President's comprehensive "Build Back Better" investments and items not covered in the bipartisan infrastructure proposal.

- **The good news:** It's too early to say which specific pieces of the BBB plan are in and which may be out, but we're pleased by the overall movement toward enacting the President's proposed historic investments in children, which will help ensure an inclusive economic recovery.
- **The tricky part:** The Senate will need all 50 Democrats on board to get the budget through reconciliation. And (surprise, surprise) many have competing priorities. Add to that fiscal battles over how to pay for the investments and it looks like they're in for some long nights.



--  
First Focus on Children  
This email was sent to [tsmith32@gmail.com](mailto:tsmith32@gmail.com). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).