Masks are downs, vaccines are up, and we are slowly emerging from the pandemic. And while it was tough on grownups, the kids are the ones who really had it hard. Our expert policy team at First Focus Campaign for Children has some ideas about how Congress can help them recover and make their lives better.

Behold: Our Children’s Agenda for the 117th Congress.

In it, our policy experts offer groundbreaking solutions in every area of policy as well as recommendations for specific legislation that Congress should enact to achieve them. We cover everything from tax and budget policy, to health care, nutrition, immigration, education, juvenile justice, child care, foreign affairs and other critical issues. Why? Because every issue is a children’s issue. #ItsAKidsIssue

Research shows that voters are behind us. In a pre-election survey, an overwhelming majority — regardless of political affiliation — said that federal policy and budgets should be set according to a “best interest of the child” standard. There's never been a better time than now.

Because……

- Every aspect of children's lives has been affected by the pandemic.
- For the first time in decades, children have a place in the national conversation.
For instance, take the (very) preliminary Senate budget. The document reportedly includes $150 billion mainly aimed at creating a path to lawful permanent resident status for protected categories such as DACA beneficiaries, farmworkers, essential workers and those with Temporary Protected Status from certain countries. Roughly 5 million children have parents who are undocumented, including DACA recipients, recipients of Temporary Protected Status, or essential workers or farmworkers. Another 725,000+ kids are themselves undocumented.

Other goodies in the package are said to include money for maternal and behavioral health programs, as well as bigger pieces of pie than President Biden offered for affordable housing, free college tuition and child care. Now, that's tasty!!