

The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

New and Notable

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Dear Friends,

This week, we've ditched the polemics. So pull up a chair and enjoy this down-and-dirty roundup of kid news:

Health Care for Immigrant Families: More than [250 national and state organizations](#), including First Focus Campaign for Children, have endorsed the HEAL for Immigrant Families Act, introduced this week. The legislation, most notably, would eliminate the five-year waiting period for immigrants to enroll in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and would open the Affordable Care Act Marketplace to immigrants who want to purchase coverage. [Read more on HEAL for Immigrant Families.](#)

Protecting Transgender Kids: Just five months into the year, 2021 has seen a staggering volume of legislation introduced — more than 100 bills in 33 states — that targets trans children and their caretakers by criminalizing standard medical care, restricting access to school sports and more. Here are some [policy recommendations to protect these children.](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine: As regular readers know, First Focus has been urging the Biden Administration to create a [child-specific plan for distributing the COVID-19 vaccine](#) to kids. This week, the President repeated [his commitment to outfitting pediatricians and pharmacies](#) with doses for children. Health and Human Services assistant secretary for health Dr. Rachel Levine went further. On the [NPR program 1A, Dr. Levine said](#): “**We’re going to have many different mechanisms in addition to the pharmacy program for everyone to have access, specifically these teenagers as well.**”

Among the Administration actions listed by Dr. Levine:

- "investing billions in state- and community-based organizations,"
- "expanding the program with federally qualified community health centers,"
- "ramping up targeted media efforts in many languages,"
- "providing transportation,"
- "deploying mobile units."

First Focus on Children called for many of these items in its [letter to the Administration](#) and we're pleased to hear Dr. Levine say it out loud. But it would be great to have a cohesive, Administration-wide commitment. (okay, maybe this is a small rant).

First Focus in the News:

- [The next big COVID-19 hurdle: vaccinating kids](#), *National Journal*
- [Casey's 'Five Freedoms' may find home in Biden's infrastructure plan](#), *WENY News*
- [Vaccinating kids for COVID-19 poses additional challenges for officials](#), *Roll Call*

And it's back, your moment of zen:



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First Focus on Children

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