

URGE THE BIDEN/HARRIS ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE ACTIVE STEPS IN 2023 AND 2024 TO EXECUTE A COMPREHENSIVE CHILDREN'S AGENDA.



Beginning in 2023, the U.S. federal government will be divided, with a Republican majority in the House and a Democratic-led Senate and Administration. Because the divide makes it unlikely that Congress will pass much bipartisan legislation in this session, **First Focus on Children** and our **Campaign for Children** will increase our focus on the Administration and explore further what it can do unilaterally on behalf of kids.

This month we will urge President Biden and Vice President Harris via email to do all they can before the end of 2024 to enhance and put forward policies that benefit children at home and worldwide. When VP Harris ran for President, she offered a comprehensive **policy agenda** on behalf of children, and support remains strong within the Administration for addressing the needs of kids. In the face of a divided Congress, the Administration must do all it can on its own to achieve a comprehensive children's agenda.

Background

Over the past two years, the slim, single-party majority in Congress was able to deliver a number of important successes for children, sometimes by engaging help from the minority. The 117th Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act to address the dual health and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The package included funding for vaccine distribution and opening schools, as well as a temporary expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty nearly in half. The 117th Congress also passed gun control legislation, investments to combat climate change, and funding and continuation of early childhood development home visiting programming. Congress ended the year by passing a \$1.7 trillion funding package that expanded resources for child care, Head Start, homeless assistance, permanent summer food benefits and mental health support for school children.

Unfortunately, the 117th Congress did not complete the policy-reform and funding priorities that our children desperately need. For example, immigration reform never got off the ground and lawmakers failed to extend the expanded Child Tax Credit despite its proven success in alleviating the worst aspects of child poverty.

Join us in taking action!

This month, join First Focus on Children policy experts and other Ambassadors as we call on President Biden and Vice President Harris to enact a comprehensive children's agenda now! A new divided Congress will be struggling to pass meaningful legislation for the next two years, so the administration must act swiftly and decisively—on their own—to ensure that children are a priority moving forward. The Administration can set the tone right now by enacting policies like establishing a **Child Poverty Target to cut child poverty, creating a Children's Cabinet to better prioritize and coordinate across federal agencies and departments**, and taking steps to finally **end the cruel policy of family separations**.

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Steps for writing an effective advocacy email:

1. **Reflect on your reasons for becoming a First Focus Ambassador for Children.**
 - Why did you join this community?
 - What keeps you motivated?
 - What thoughts would you like to share about the importance of having a government, society and culture that adequately prioritizes the needs of children?
2. **Draft your email on a computer or plain paper. Consider including:**
 - Some information about yourself and why you are writing to them now.
 - Your reflections on why you became a *First Focus Ambassador* and what keeps you motivated to advocate for children.
3. **When you are happy with your draft, use the form at [this link](#) to send your email to President Biden and Vice President Harris.**
4. **Consider emailing 2-3 friends or family members to encourage them to also write a letter.**
 - Include people who also might be interested in becoming a *First Focus Ambassador for Children*.
 - Tell them why you thought of them as someone who might support this work.
 - Share with them why you are involved and what motivates you to act on behalf of children.
5. **Mark your calendar to check in with them a week later to gauge their interest and offer them support.**
6. **Share any responses you receive from the Biden/Harris Administration with the First Focus Team.**
7. **Post your actions and responses on your social media feeds. Tag @Campaign4Kids, @WhiteHouse and your members of Congress ([you can find their social media accounts using our tool here](#)) and celebrate your success! [Be sure to check out [the social media "how to" document](#) for any needed hashtag and tagging advice.]**