

URGE PRESIDENT BIDEN TO TAKE ACCELERATED ACTION ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN



In February we will commemorate Black History Month by urging the Biden Administration to take executive action that will improve the lives of children and especially black and brown children living in the United States. Specifically, we will be **calling for the president to issue an executive order establishing a national child poverty target, as [championed recently](#) by Members of Congress, to catalyze progress on the reduction of child poverty.**

Background

The injustices of yesterday are present today in the legacy that racism and oppression has sowed and in the societal institutions and practices created to maintain that oppression. We have a long way to go in dismantling the legacy of racism, including in addressing our country's racial child poverty gap.

Due to temporary improvements made to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in 2021, [we recently saw significant progress in reducing child poverty in the U.S.](#), cutting our national child poverty rate nearly in half and narrowing the racial poverty gap between Black and Hispanic and white children. Yet significant racial disparities in child poverty still exist, and since the expiration of improvements to the CTC, we have seen an uptick once again in child poverty and material hardship.

Childhood, especially early childhood, is when the majority of human brain growth occurs and is a critical period of development that can be impeded by the deprivations of poverty. Yet poverty is not intractable — the historic progress of 2021 confirms that child poverty is solvable when lawmakers have the political will to act.

The formal establishment of a national child poverty reduction target across the federal government would prioritize the goal of addressing child poverty and closing the racial child poverty gap for all U.S. agencies and offices and galvanize efforts toward the end of U.S. child poverty by monitoring progress in real time. In addition, the formalization of a federal child reduction target would enable congress and civil society to hold the administration accountable should progress fail to materialize.

Our policies must proactively seek to end racial disparities for children and ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

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Join Us in Taking Action!

This month, join First Focus on Children, policy experts and other ambassadors in emailing President Biden to thank him for his championing of the CTC improvements, and continuing to push for their extension. We will urge him to set a national child poverty reduction target as a tool for making this happen and a way for him to solidify his commitment to addressing child poverty that he laid out so powerfully during his State of the Union address.

Steps for Writing an Effective Advocacy Email:

1. Reflect on why you care about the elimination of child poverty and what our nation's current policies and priorities mean for our children.
2. Write a rough draft of your email and consider including information about yourself and why you are writing to the president now.
3. When you are happy with your email, [use this link](#) to send your note to President Biden thanking him for his powerful State of the Union address where he called for, among other child-related issues, Congress to restore the full Child Tax Credit, ban assault weapons once and for all, establish a national policy of paid family and medical leave, and create affordable child care.
4. Then urge him to take executive action to establish a national child poverty target thereby generating progress on its reduction.
5. 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.
6. Mark your calendar to check in with them a week later to gauge their interest and offer them support.
7. Share any responses you receive from the Biden administration with the First Focus Team.

Post your actions and responses on your social media feeds, tag [@Campaign4Kids](#), [@WhiteHouse](#), [@Commit2kids](#) 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.]