



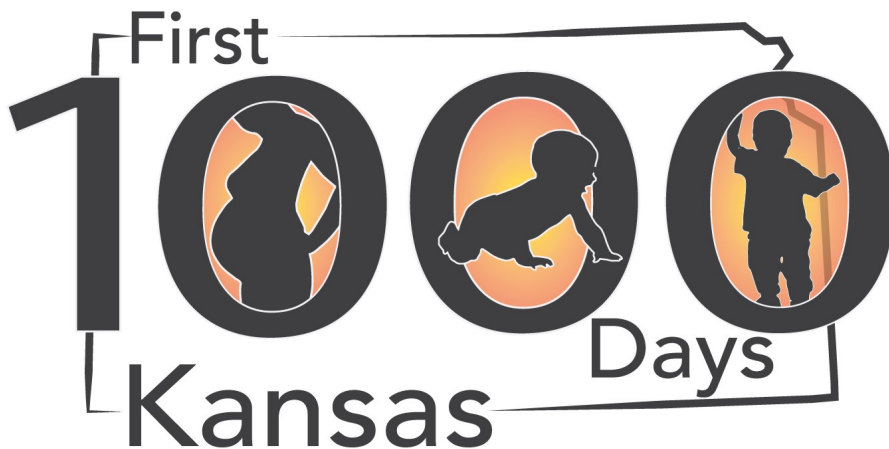
**Federal and State  
First Fridays  
Policy Updates**  
9-9:30 a.m. CDT



# The Team



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Presenter:

Jessie Zimmerer

Senior Campaign Manager



COMMUNITY CATALYST

*Because we all should have a say  
in decisions that affect our health*



# First Friday Policy Update

- Review of the Build Back Better Act:
  - House passed BBB in Nov. 2021
    - Extended ARPA's expanded ACA subsidies for marketplace coverage
    - Closed the Medicaid coverage gap
    - Invests in maternal health
      - Provides \$1.2B in funding for maternal health workforce, including doulas and midwives, and training and health equity
      - Provides \$1B in funding for maternal health homes
      - Provides continuous eligibility for one year
    - Makes CHIP permanent
    - Invests in Home & Community Based Care
    - Provided 4 weeks of paid leave for every worker (per year)
    - And much, much more!



# First Friday Policy Update

- And then Senator Manchin (WV) stalled the bill
  - In a 50/50 senate, every single member has the power to shut down debate and block legislation
  - Last year, Senator Manchin complained that the bill was too big and that several “social spending” provisions, including paid leave, didn’t “belong” in the bill.
  - And we’ve been stuck in a holding pattern ever since
- **HOWEVER** we are expecting the Senate to take up a version on Build Back Better through reconciliation this year

# First Friday Policy Update

- Here's why:

- The reconciliation bill remains the best and last chance for the Biden administration to get any part of their legislative agenda passed in his first term
- Most Democratic members feel pressure to pass something before Nov.
- A reconciliation bill is a valuable asset for the party in power—they don't often give these away

- Here's how:

- The Senate will use the same reconciliation rules the House used, but will pass a significantly smaller package
- Then the bill will go to the House and members will pass whatever the Senate puts forward

# First Friday Policy Update

- Strategy for advocates:
  - Don't listen to the news reports
  - No one really knows what the timing will be
  - Bill text negotiation will likely be behind closed doors and we'll hear about it only when they have a deal
  - Make sure members both agree on the need AND prioritize your issues in the bill
    - It's not enough for there to just "not be opposition."
- Understand that it takes all kinds of advocates to win
  - Some will be more movement builders and noise makers
  - Some will be deal makers
  - Some will be focused on accountability



# **First Friday Policy Update**

- Here's what Community Catalyst is focused on:
  - Expanded APTCs
  - Closing the Medicaid Coverage Gap
  - Maternal health investments
  - Investments in HCBS
  - Medicaid coverage for people re-entering communities post incarceration
  - Continuous eligibility
  - Making CHIP Permanent
  - Drug price reform

# First Friday Policy Update

- How we can work together:
  - Keep up the drumbeat—members of Congress have to know that you're watching, not waiting
  - If you're having trouble breaking through the noise, find an angle that connects your priorities to issues already in the news or on people's minds (EX: inflation = costs for families)
  - Be ready for movement at any time (even though we're all beyond exhausted)

Presenter:

John Wilson

President



# State Policy Spotlight

## Legislative Session Update

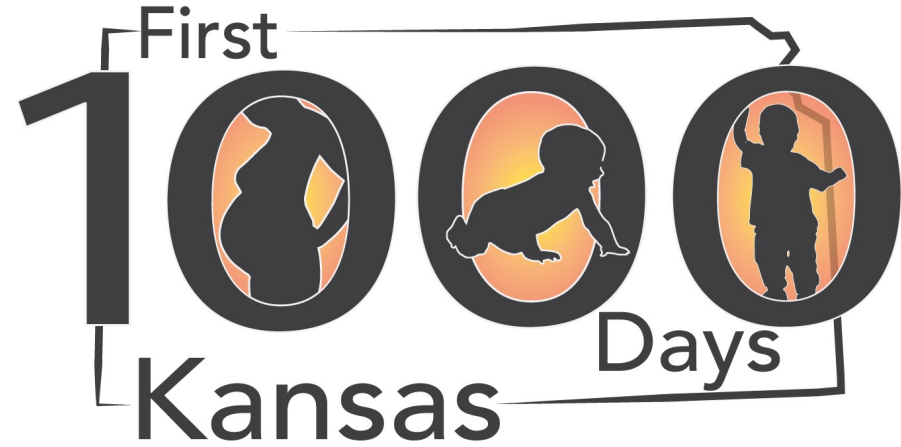




**Next Step**

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