



Promise them the moon.

In a desperate search for a bold plan to galvanize the country, the White House recently floated the idea of sending a man to the moon. Again.

But imagine how this country would be transformed if the president rallied the nation to truly accomplish what's now just one of many unfulfilled promises: "leave no child behind."

Twelve million children live below the poverty line and the numbers are increasing even for those *whose parents work*. More than 9 million kids under the age of 19 have no health insurance. Thousands of the nation's schools are doomed. Pediatric asthma rates are rising along with air pollution. And massive federal debt looms over future generations.

There are better places to boldly go.

A White House acting on behalf of our children would craft its policies to address these issues. It would begin by abandoning its efforts to weaken Head Start and dismantle health insurance for poor children. It would fully fund its own No Child Left

Behind Act (the president has proposed spending billions less than he promised). It would guarantee that every kid had access to pre-kindergarten education and comprehensive after-school care. And the Clean Air Act would be strengthened, not gutted.

Our country has always risen to great leadership. We could send another man to the moon. But we'd be better served if President Bush had the vision to send millions of healthy, well-educated children into the future.

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