



THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Building an Economy for Families Act

The *Building an Economy for Families Act* would allow all workers to fully participate in the U.S. economy by making basic support for workers with families part of the infrastructure of our economy instead of optional add-ons that not only don't exist for a majority of workers but also could vanish at an moment.

Those basics include:

Universal access to paid family and medical leave for new parents and workers dealing with a serious medical issue, either their own or that of a loved one who needs care.

- The Building an Economy for Families Act creates a new entitlement to up to **12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for all workers**, which would be available through a new public program administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, existing comprehensive state paid leave programs, or through employers providing high-quality benefits.
- For a typical worker, the paid leave benefit would replace about **two-thirds of wages**, with higher wage replacement for low-wage workers, allowing families to stay afloat until a wage-earner could return to work.

Guaranteed access to child care that's available, affordable, high quality, and provided by workers who earn a living wage.

- The Building an Economy for Families Act would create a new **Child Care Information Network** to give parents and guardians frequently-updated information about available child care slots that meet their needs, improve the physical quality of child care facilities through infrastructure projects, and address child care shortages across the country by permanently increasing and indexing the **Child Care Entitlement to States to \$10 billion a year** and providing additional targeted funding.
- Creates a **new refundable payroll tax credit** for wages paid by certain childcare providers, of up to \$5,000 per year, to raise the wages of our essential child care work force, an industry that is built on the backs of underpaid women of color.

A New Worker Information System to make sure workers know about help that's available and don't get locked out of programs that are supposed to help them, like paid leave and child care assistance.

The *Building an Economy for Families Act* also permanently extends the historic expansions of the refundable **worker and family-focused tax credits included in the American Rescue Plan Act.**

- **The Child Tax Credit**, a fully refundable and payable monthly credit, would provide \$3,000 (\$3,600 for young children) per child.
- **The Earned Income Tax Credit** provides nearly triple the maximum credit for workers without dependents and makes permanent a 'lookback' provision to ensure that taxpayers receive a full EITC even when they have experienced an income shock.
- **The Child and Dependent Care Credit** would provide a fully refundable credit of up to \$8,000 for qualifying child care expenses of up to \$16,000.

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