



WAYS AND MEANS DEMOCRATS IN 2021

Leading America's historic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and laying the groundwork for a brighter future

Over the past year, Ways and Means Democrats led congressional efforts to uplift families, strengthen the economy, and ensure everyone in the nation could access quality, affordable health care. Thanks to the Committee's leadership, Americans have more money in their pockets and the economy is roaring back from the COVID-19 downturn.

Ways and Means provisions in the American Rescue Plan – which became law in March of this year – included an historic enhancement of the Child Tax Credit, an additional economic impact payment, extended unemployment benefits for workers who needed them, expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit, lower health insurance premiums, a down payment on child care access for families, and a solution to the multiemployer pension crisis, protecting more than a million American workers' and retirees' hard-earned savings.

More good news is on the horizon, with congressional Democrats committed to passing the second half of President Biden's Build Back Better agenda. The House has already approved an array of transformative Ways and Means provisions, including universal paid family and medical leave, extensions of the enhanced Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit, closure of the Medicaid coverage gap, and over \$320 billion of investments in green energy tax incentives to cut carbon emissions, fight climate change, and create good jobs. Democrats are determined to find a path forward for these and other policies to become law.

At the center of all this work was members' commitment to the advancement of equity and pursuit of undoing generations of systemic discrimination. The Committee's Racial Equity Initiative provided invaluable recommendations and guidance to focus efforts on expanding opportunities for historically marginalized communities and helping to improve the quality of life for all Americans.

DELIVERED IN THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Investments in Workers, Families, and the Economy

- An additional \$1,400 economic impact payment
- Extended emergency federal unemployment benefits
- Expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 for children under six years of age), as well as enhancements to the credit making it fully refundable and advanceable through monthly payments
- Full expansion of the CTC to all of the U.S. territories
- Enhanced Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers without children, with a near tripling of the maximum credit and extended eligibility
- Expansion of the Child and Dependent Tax Credit (CDCTC) to allow families to claim up to half of their child care expenses, and a permanent increase in the Child Care Entitlement to States (CCES) to improve child care access and quality

- Emergency assistance to Americans in need distributed through existing pathways, ensuring that pregnant women, children, and struggling families could maintain access to essentials like housing, diapers, internet service, and food
- Pension stabilization for more than 1 million Americans who participate in multiemployer plans, protecting workers' and retirees' hard-earned savings and preventing crisis

Expanded Access to Quality Health Care and Lower Costs

- Reduced health care premiums for low- and middle-income families through enhanced Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium tax credits for 2021 and 2022
- Continuation of employer-based health coverage by fully subsidizing COBRA coverage through the end of the end of September 2021
- New health care subsidies through the ACA Marketplaces for recipients of unemployment compensation in 2021
- Investments in seniors and people with disabilities through supports to nursing homes and historic funding to support the Elder Justice Act

HOUSE-APPROVED MEASURES TO CONTINUE BUILDING BACK BETTER

Investments in Workers, Families, and the Economy

- The first-ever, universal, comprehensive paid family and medical leave benefit for all U.S. workers
- Over \$320 billion of investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency tax incentives to help meet President Biden's goal of reducing U.S. carbon emissions by 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 while creating good, well-paying jobs in the emerging green economy
- Permanent refundability of the Child Tax Credit and a one-year extension of the American Rescue Plan's enhanced CTC
- A one-year extension of the American Rescue Plan's enhanced EITC for workers without qualifying children
- Exemption of Pell Grants from being considered taxable income and from determining a student's maximum American Opportunity Tax Credit benefit through 2026
- Expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)
- A new Neighborhood Homes Tax Credit to support neighborhood stabilization and home ownership in low-income communities
- Amendments to the tax rules related to tribal issuance of government bonds to ensure financing parity with states, the creation of a more generous low-income tax credit subsidy for tribal projects, and the establishment of a new \$175,000,000 New Markets Tax Credit allocation exclusively for use in low-income tribal communities and for projects that serve or employ low-income tribe members

- Assistance to the territories through the creation of a new tax credit for qualifying U.S. companies with business operations in the territories
- Reauthorization and expansion of the Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program, a tried-and-tested method for putting low-income workers on career pathways in high demand health care jobs
- Full access to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for eligible seniors and people with disabilities in all U.S. Territories
- Reauthorizations and updates to Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Programs that provide critical lifelines to workers, firms, farmers, and communities that have been harmed by trade

Expanded Access to Quality Health Care and Lower Costs

- Closure of the Medicaid coverage gap, providing access to affordable coverage in the ACA Marketplaces beginning next year through 2025 to roughly 4 million uninsured Americans who live in states that have not expanded Medicaid coverage under the ACA
- Extension of the American Rescue Plan's enhanced premium subsidies in the ACA Marketplaces through 2025
- Extension of the American Rescue Plan's ACA subsidies for recipients of unemployment compensation through 2022
- Expansion of access to affordable coverage through the ACA Marketplaces for workers with an offer of employer-sponsored coverage costing more than 8.5 percent of income through 2025
- Protections for recipients of Social Security benefit lump-sum payments who enroll in ACA Marketplace coverage from an unexpected tax burden
- Changes to enhance and make permanent the Health Coverage Tax Credit
- Expansion of Medicare to include coverage for hearing services and hearing aids
- Lower prescription costs by empowering the Health and Human Services Secretary to negotiate drug prices, preventing drug companies from unfairly increasing their prices beyond inflation for Medicare beneficiaries and those with private insurance, and creating a new, out-of-pocket cap in Medicare on prescription drug costs at \$2,000
- Improved nursing home care through robust data and transparency measures along with long-overdue staffing standards
- Investments in Elder Justice Act programs that protect seniors and people living with disabilities through programs such as Adult Protective Services and Long-term Care Ombudsman grants and training
- Investments in the long-term care workforce through a new program to provide much-needed wrap-around supports to bolster this vital part of the health care infrastructure
- Funding for two new programs through the Elder Justice Act to address social determinants of health through Medical Legal Partnerships and social isolation among seniors and people with disabilities
- A Pathway to Practice Training Program that trains a more diverse physician workforce, shrinks the physician shortage, and ensures these new physicians are equipped with structural and cultural competencies to help them reduce health inequities and disparities