

# **100 Days of Fighting For The People:** **Raising Wages, Lowering Health Care and Prescription Drug Costs,** **Ensuring More Families Can Make It In America**

*Friday, April 12, marks the 100<sup>th</sup> day of the House Democratic Majority, and House Democrats have made significant progress on the For The People agenda during that time, working to raise wages and expand economic opportunity; lower health care and prescription drug costs; and ensure working families have the tools to make it in America. Take a look:*

## **RAISING WAGES**

**H.R. 7, the Paycheck Fairness Act:** The Democratic-led House [passed](#) this bill on March 27, drawing support from seven House Republicans. The legislation aims to end gender-based wage discrimination by closing loopholes in the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Ensuring equal pay will [cut in half](#) the poverty rates for both working women and single mothers, benefiting over 25 million children. It also has the potential to bring an additional [\\$900 billion](#) each year to the economy through spending on goods and services, education, homeownership, and more.

**Investing in Infrastructure:** Multiple committees have held hearings on the need to invest in building a 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure, including Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, Small Business, and Energy and Commerce.

**Raising the Minimum Wage:** House Democrats introduced legislation to gradually raise the minimum wage, and the Education and Labor Committee passed the bill out of committee. Raising the minimum wage would have widespread economic benefits. [Research suggests](#) that a 10% increase in the minimum wage results in increased sales of nearly \$2 billion each year.

**H.R. 790, Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act of 2019:** The House [passed](#) this bill in January 2019 to ensure parity in pay increases between federal civilian employees and military service members.

## **LOWERING HEALTH CARE AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS**

**Defending the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in Court:** On day one of the Democratic Majority, the House voted to authorize the House Counsel to intervene as a party in the *Texas v. U.S.* lawsuit. Subsequently, the House passed two resolutions: one in January to affirm the House Counsel's authorization to defend the ACA and another in March, introduced by Rep. Colin Allred (TX-32), condemning the Trump Administration's efforts to sabotage the ACA and put protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions at risk.

**H.R. 1884, the Protecting Pre-Existing Conditions and Making Health Care More Affordable Act:** House Democrats introduced comprehensive legislation to protect Americans with pre-existing conditions, reverse the Administration's sabotage of the ACA, and make coverage more affordable. The Energy & Commerce Committee passed out of Committee six individual bills that are part of this comprehensive legislation. The six bills aim to make coverage more affordable, defend against the Trump Administration's ability to undermine protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and restore outreach for enrollment to ensure Americans can sign up for coverage.

**Legislation to Lower Prescription Drug Costs:** House Democrats have introduced numerous bills to address the cost of prescription drugs. The Energy and Commerce Committee has passed out of Committee six bills to move generic versions of prescription drugs to market faster, providing more affordable alternatives to brand name prescription drugs. In addition, the Ways and Means Committee passed H.R. 2113, the Prescription Drug STAR Act, out of Committee, which increases drug pricing transparency.

**Conducting Oversight:** In addition to legislation, House Democrats have held numerous hearings and launched investigations to address rising health care and prescription drug costs, such as hearings led by the Energy and Commerce Committee to examine prescription drug costs, including the price of insulin; a hearing by the Education

*Office of Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer, 4/11/2019*

and Labor Committee to examine surprise billing; and actions to demand answers from the Administration regarding “junk plans.”

### **ENDING THE TRUMP SHUTDOWN**

**Re-opening the government:** House Democrats took the majority during a deeply harmful, thirty-five day Trump government shutdown. Beginning on the first day of the new majority, House Democrats brought both Republican bills and compromise measures to the Floor to reopen government and voted eleven times to end the shutdown.

### **EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF THE GOP TAX SCAM**

**The 2017 Tax Law and Who it Left Behind:** The Ways & Means Committee held a hearing on the impact of the GOP tax law and who it left behind. In addition, the Ways and Means’ Oversight Subcommittee held a hearing with the National Taxpayer Advocate to assess the first tax season since implementation of the GOP tax law.

### **PROMOTING A SECURE RETIREMENT**

**H.R. 1994, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act of 2019:** House Democrats [introduced](#) legislation that will allow Americans to increase their retirement savings and improve the portability of lifetime income options from one plan to another. The Ways and Means Committee passed the bill out of Committee with unanimous support.

**Unlocking Small Business Retirement Security:** The Committee on Small Business held a hearing to examine the retirement plans available to small businesses and options to expand coverage.

### **ENSURING MORE AMERICANS CAN GET AHEAD**

**Helping Middle Class Families Succeed:** The Ways and Means Committee held a hearing to examine how the rapidly changing economy has left behind hardworking middle-class families across the country.

**Looking At Challenges Facing Rural Communities:** The House Committee on Agriculture held a hearing to explore challenges facing farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and working families.

### **EXPANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION**

**Revitalizing Advanced Manufacturing:** The Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittees on Research and Technology and Energy held a hearing with energy experts on how to best use the Manufacturing USA programs to improve U.S. competitiveness, decarbonize our economy, and train the workforce.

**Expanding Rural Businesses’ Access to Technologies:** The Committee on Small Business held a hearing on the challenges that rural small businesses face in utilizing digital technologies.

### **GENERATING CLEAN ENERGY JOBS**

**H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act:** House Democrats introduced legislation that takes action on the climate crisis by prohibiting any federal funds from being used to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement, ensuring America honors its Paris Agreement commitments, and laying the groundwork for further action.

**Developing Clean Energy Jobs and Building a “Green Collar” Workforce:** The Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing to explore how we can develop “Green Collar” jobs in fields currently considered “Blue Collar.” The Energy Subcommittee of the Committee on Energy and Commerce held a legislative hearing on five bills to invest in a workforce to make American homes, buildings, and infrastructure more energy efficient.

## **INCREASING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**Addressing Homelessness and Ensuring Fair Housing:** The Financial Services Committee held a hearing to explore solutions to the national shortage of affordable housing, which contributes to driving low income families into homelessness. The Committee also held a hearing to review efforts to eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunity in housing.

## **STRENGTHENING CONSUMER PROTECTIONS**

**Reviewing the Trump Administration's Attacks on Consumer Protections:** The Financial Services Committee held a hearing on the Trump Administration's efforts to undermine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFBP) and how to reverse those efforts and protect consumers.

## **IMPROVING ACCESS TO EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Making Higher Education More Affordable:** The Education and Labor Committee held a hearing to explore reforms to address the rising costs of college. In addition, the Education and Labor Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment held a hearing to strengthen the federal government, states, and accreditors' accountability and oversight of the higher education system.

**Expanding Workforce Training Programs:** The Education and Labor Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment held a hearing on expanding access to registered apprenticeship programs, which provide gateways to good paying jobs, valuable credentials for future employment, and career advancement.

## **PREVENTING THE DEPORTATION OF IMMIGRANTS WHO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ECONOMY**

**H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act:** House Democrats introduced and the Judiciary Committee has held hearings on legislation to provide Dreamers and those with TPS or DED with a pathway to citizenship and prevent their deportation, which would have harmful economic consequences. Deporting Dreamers could mean [1,716 jobs lost daily](#) and 300,000 people taken from the work force, and the cost of rolling back TPS is projected to reach [billions of dollars](#) in GDP over the next decade.

## **ADDRESSING POVERTY**

**Focusing on Issues Related to Poverty:** In the first few months of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, House Democrats [commissioned a report](#) on reducing child poverty and [relaunched](#) the Majority Leader Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity, led by Chairwoman Barbara Lee (CA-13) and six Vice Chairs: Rep. TJ Cox (CA-21), Vice Chair on Rural Poverty; Rep. Sylvia Garcia (TX-29), Vice Chair on Urban Poverty; Rep. Deb Haaland (NM-01), Vice Chair on Families and Children Living in Poverty; Rep. Ben McAdams (UT-04), Vice Chair on Economic Opportunity, Education, and Workforce Development; and Rep. Joe Neguse (CO-02), Vice Chair on Housing and Transportation.

**Expanding Pathways to Employment:** On April 9, the House passed H.R. 1759 the BRIDGE for Workers Act, which expands eligibility for state job placement programs for more unemployed workers.