

The Next COVID Relief Bill: Why it's important and what you can do

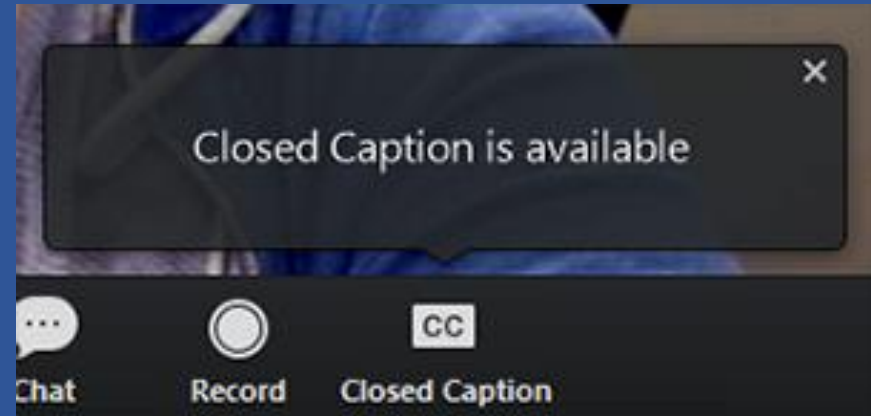


February 18, 2021

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CHN Members and Supporters

Jared Bernstein

Jared Bernstein is a member of President Biden's White House Council of Economic Advisers.

He was a Senior Fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities from 2011 to 2020. From 2009 – 2011, he was Chief Economist and Economic Advisor to then-Vice President Biden.



Ana Walker Caskin, MD, FAAP

Ana Walker Caskin, MD is the Associate Medical Director for Community Pediatrics at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. In that role she serves as the Director of Strategy for School Health and the Medical Director of the School Health Center at Anacostia Senior High School.

Dr. Caskin lectures widely on Social Determinants of Health, Health Justice, Medical Legal Partnerships and Transition to adult care.



Lanre Falusi, MD, FAAP

Lanre Falusi, MD, FAAP is a pediatrician at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC, where she serves as the Medical Director of Advocacy Education in the Child Health Advocacy Institute. She has practiced primary care pediatrics for nearly 15 years in health centers serving families from African-American and immigrant backgrounds. She is a Past President of the DC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and has served on several national committees.



Deborah Weinstein

Deborah Weinstein has been Executive Director of the Coalition on Human Needs since 2003. At CHN and previously at the Children's Defense Fund and the Massachusetts Human Services Coalition, Debbie has helped advocates to combat poverty and hardship for about 40 years.



Ellen Teller, Moderator



Ellen Teller is Director of Government Affairs at the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). She joined FRAC in 1986, and previously served as an attorney at the American Bar Association, Center for Science in the Public Interest and the Consumer Federation of America. She is the Board Chair of the Coalition on Human Needs.

**Too important to
mess up**

American Rescue Plan

- More funding for a national **vaccine** program with nationwide community vaccination centers
- Hiring 100,000 additional public health workers for vaccine outreach, contact tracing, and other work to improve care in underserved communities
- An education campaign to persuade people the vaccines are safe and effective
- More money for COVID-19 testing, treatment, and protective supplies
- **Increased access to health coverage** through subsidies for COBRA for the unemployed and increased Premium Tax Credits to help people afford insurance, as well as expanded mental health and substance use disorder services
- **\$1,400 stimulus checks** added to the current \$600 payments
- Enhanced **unemployment insurance benefits** (\$400 per week, plus continuation of other pandemic unemployment programs)
- **Increased food assistance** in all states and territories for the duration of our current crisis, with automatic triggers for increases during future health or economic crises
- Critical **aid to renters**, people threatened with or experiencing homelessness, and households unable to pay heat or water bills
- An extension of **the eviction and foreclosure moratoria**
- Money for **small businesses targeted to those hardest hit**, including those owned by people of color
- **\$350 billion for state, local and territorial governments** that have seen finances plummet during the pandemic recession, crippling services and causing layoffs
- Funds for **public transit** agencies
- **\$170 billion for schools**, including roughly \$130 billion dedicated toward safe reopening and/or effective remote learning for K-12, and funds to help colleges deal with the shift to distance learning and other pandemic-tied problems; also \$1b for Head Start
- Dramatic increases to the **Child Tax Credit** to \$3,000 per child, or \$3,600 for a child under 6 years old. (These credits are fully refundable, which means even the poorest families in our country can receive the full benefit. This measure also increases the **Earned Income Tax Credit** for the poorest workers without dependent children.)
- **An increase in the federal minimum wage to \$15/hour**
- \$20 billion to support **Tribal governments'** pandemic response, including health care and increased access to clean water, electricity and broadband
- **14 weeks Paid Sick and Family and Medical Leave – incentives for employers**

Week of	What's Going On in Congress
Feb. 8	12 House Committees introduce and pass their reconciliation bills.
Feb. 15	House Budget Committee works on assembling committee bills into one reconciliation bill.
Feb. 22	House Budget Committee releases bill; goes to Rules Committee; on House floor probably (??) Friday, Feb. 26.
March 1	Senate action starts: Byrd bath, 20 hours of debate + vote-a-rama.
March 8?	Resolve differences between House and Senate reconciliation bills.
March 14	When enhanced unemployment benefits expire .

Uncertainties

- Minimum wage increase
- Medicaid funding:
 - Incentives for expanding Medicaid
 - Home and Community Based Svcs
- State/local/education aid
- Child Tax Credit/EITC
- \$1,400 direct payments – who gets?
- Unemployment benefits – how long?
- Paid leave
- Utility bills assistance (\$5b)

\$1.9 trillion

50 + 1



One state: Arizona

- **107,000 jobs lost** in the past year
- **15%** of adults living with children said **not enough to eat**
- **143,000 people (13%)** in households **behind in their rent**
 - **18%** of Latinx households behind in rent
 - Arizona will get \$492m in emergency rental assistance
- American Rescue Plan will cut **child poverty in Arizona by nearly half** (46%)
 - **93%** of Arizona's children will get some benefit from Child Tax Credit increase (1.5 million children); **238,000** either lifted out of poverty or poverty reduced
- **346,000 childless workers** in AZ helped by EITC expansion
- Arizona will get **\$7.4b in state and local govt. aid**



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FEBRUARY 16, 2021



CHN's latest on COVID-19 more

FEBRUARY 16

Tell Congress: Struggling Families Need an Immediate Increase to the Child Tax Credit

14,436 Letters Sent



Only 11,164 more until our goal of 25,600

ENTER YOUR RETURN ADDRESS

START WRITING

#AmericanRescuePlan

tweetstorm

Mon Feb 22

1-2pm ET



Thanks!
We'll send you useful info
and ways to weigh in.



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