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# SAVE for All

*Strengthening America's Values and Economy for All*

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Strengthening America's Values and Economy (SAVE) for All brings together organizations across the nation in a campaign to rebuild our economy by ensuring that every American is free from want and can participate in shared prosperity. The COVID pandemic laid bare the ways our federal government has failed to support opportunities and provide protections for all. Racial disparities in deaths and economic devastation stand as an undeniable testament to persistent and historic racial discrimination, structural inequities in access to health care, narrow work opportunities, and housing disparities experienced by people of color and women.

We know our nation's progress depends on equal rights and opportunities for all, protected and advanced by a strong and just federal government. Congress and the Biden Administration have taken historic and effective steps to rescue our economy from a catastrophic fall, recognizing that the human infrastructure of care work, education, health care, food, housing and cash aid urgently needed repair. We now have a once-in-a-generation chance for Congress to pass a transformational economic recovery package that invests in our future and dramatically reduces poverty, advances gender, economic, and racial justice, and puts millions of people to work in family-sustaining, union jobs across the economy. Creating a lasting economic recovery depends mutually on investments in our people and in modern technologies and infrastructure.

We urge Congress to make budget decisions based on four SAVE for All principles that are endorsed by national, state and local faith-based, human service providers, civil rights, labor, policy experts, and community-based and advocacy organizations.

## SAVE Principles

- **Protect and Empower People with Low Incomes**

Federal investments should ensure that all people have the building blocks of a decent life: opportunities to work to earn a living wage and benefits and to care for family members; access to food, housing, health care, education, and training; and income supplements when work pays too little or is not possible, including for seniors in retirement, people with disabilities, and families raising children. To meet this objective, Congress must increase the federal minimum wage, make permanent increases in nutrition assistance, create automatic triggers for increased unemployment and other benefits to respond to economic downturns, increase the supply of affordable housing and expand access to rental assistance, ensure all have access to

quality, affordable health care, and provide permanent increases in income assistance through such means as the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit. Protecting people with low incomes also requires that all have access to basic needs programs regardless of immigrant status. It also requires a commitment to support working families through good quality child care, paid family and medical leave, and paid sick days.

- **Promote Job Creation and Strengthen the Green Economy**

By investing in meeting our human and physical infrastructure needs, we can create jobs with good pay and benefits for millions of Americans. We must make investments in affordable and healthy housing, clean air and water, affordable public transit, renewable energy, a reliable electric grid and broadband access. We must also invest in public institutions and care for children and older adults — essential work that is underpaid and largely performed by women of color. To build a more just economy, we must have strong wage and benefit guarantees, labor rights and access to unions, and investments in job training and education including apprenticeships and subsidized jobs that reach youth, young adults, and older workers seeking re-training. Finally, the federal government must enforce equitable hiring and contracting to prevent discrimination by race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or gender.

- **Require the Wealthy and Corporations to Pay Their Fair Share of Taxes**

We must raise revenue to make transformative investments in our nation's future and address America's growing chasm in income and wealth inequality. The large tax cuts at the end of 2017 resulted in a windfall to wealthy individuals and to corporations which, in turn, provided huge dividends to shareholders, not promised jobs. Tax breaks and loopholes favoring the rich and corporations are starving our country of the revenue needed to make the critical public investments to protect the most vulnerable in our society, allow for shared economic growth, and ensure opportunity for everyone. What is needed is a tax system based on the principles of fairness and adequacy — a system that is more progressive and raises more revenue from our country's wealthiest individuals and corporations to meet our nation's many needs and to reduce enormous racial and gender wealth gaps.

- **Cut Wasteful Spending in the Pentagon and Elsewhere**

Failure to control wasteful and unnecessary spending makes it harder to meet our country's needs. Military budgets should be subject to the same oversight and discipline as other spending, yet the Pentagon is the only government agency that has yet to pass an audit. The Pentagon's budget is higher than at the peak of the Cold War, the Vietnam War and the Korean War and is greater than the defense budgets of the next ten countries combined. Its surplus is being used to militarize domestic law enforcement. Other examples of unnecessary and harmful federal spending include mass incarceration and anti-immigrant enforcement activity. Reducing wasteful and counterproductive spending will free up much-needed revenue for human needs priorities and lead to true security for all.