



After months of negotiations and debate, the House of Representatives on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, approved the Build Back Better Act, with historic investments in education, child care, health care, and more. Following the Thanksgiving recess, the Senate is expected to begin its process of amending and advancing the bill which will likely take the rest of the calendar year before going back to the House for final passage – continued advocacy, especially in the Senate will be needed. Key highlights of the House-passed bill include:

### **EDUCATION**

- \$390 billion for universal pre-kindergarten for 3- and 4-year-olds and child care initiatives serving approximately 20 million children; cap out-of-pocket child care costs at 7 percent of family income for families earning up to 250 percent of the state median income
- \$300 million for the E-Rate’s Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) to continue the American Rescue Plan’s historic investment in helping students beat the homework gap and digital divide. (The ECF program allows K-12 public and private schools and public libraries to apply for funding to purchase home Internet access services, laptop and tablet computers, hotspots, routers, and modems to provide home connectivity to students, educators, and library patrons.)
- Nearly \$650 million in educator recruitment and retention to address shortages and diversify the profession, including Grow Your Own programs, high-quality teacher residencies, and first-time funding for the Augustus F. Hawkins Centers for Excellence program to support teacher preparation programs at HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs)
- Make college more affordable by increasing the maximum Pell grant by \$555 and expanding eligibility to students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) immigration status
- \$500 million in retention and completion grants for students in higher education
- \$9 billion for HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), including \$6 billion in institutional aid and \$3 billion in research and development infrastructure grants
- \$5 billion for Community College and Industry Partnership Grants
- \$600 million for the Perkins Basic State Grant program
- \$100 million for the Perkins Innovation and Modernization fund over about five years

### **CHILD NUTRITION**

- Expand the number of schools be able to offer free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision

- Extend Summer EBT nationwide for students who receive free or reduced-price school meals (including those who attend, Community Eligibility Provision, Provision 2, or Provision 3 schools)
- \$30 million for school kitchen equipment grants
- \$250 million for a Healthy School Meal Incentives demonstration project

### **FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE**

- The current situation is dismal: just 21 percent of American workers have access to employer-provided paid family leave, and just 42 percent of American workers have access to paid medical leave through an employer-provided plan.
- The benefits of paid family and medical leave include higher productivity and morale, lower turnover, and making it easier for employers to attract skilled workers.
- Starting in 2024, up to 4 weeks of paid family and medical leave to care for a new child, a family member, or deal with an illness or injury
- Definition of family expanded to reflect what today's families truly look like
- Average worker to receive about 2/3 of wages, up to a maximum of \$814 per week
- All working people, including public employees, to be eligible for paid family and medical leave
- Program to be administered by the Social Security Administration, with options for employers and states to continue providing their own benefits

### **HEALTH CARE**

- Close the Medicaid coverage gap for 4 million people
- Expand Medicare to cover hearing care
- Lower the cost of some prescription drugs, including a \$35 per month cap on cost-sharing for life-saving insulin
- New, out-of-pocket cap of \$2,000 on what seniors pay for their drugs in Medicare Part D
- Reduce premiums for health coverage purchased in the Affordable Care Act marketplace
- Comprehensive improvements in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) including permanent funding, access to low-cost prescription drugs, and strengthening the maternal health workforce
- \$10 billion for pandemic preparedness
- \$9.5 billion to improve the public health infrastructure, expand the capacity for training primary health care providers, and meet mental and behavioral health needs

### **HOUSING**

- Create more equitable communities with the single largest investment in affordable housing in U.S. history and support for community-led programs

### **IMMIGRATION**

- Temporary protection and employment authorization for eligible undocumented immigrants who entered the United States before January 1, 2011, and have set down

roots here (lived and worked in service to our country and communities for more than 10 years)—an estimated 7 million individuals could benefit from this provision, including 1.6 million Dreamers; 360,000 TPS recipients; and 3.6 million essential workers, including 1 million farm workers

- Recapture and prevent future loss of unused family-sponsored and employment-based visas
- \$2.8 billion for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to increase capacity to adjudicate applications and reduce case processing backlogs

#### **TAXATION**

- Extend the Child Tax Credit (CTC) that has cut child poverty in half
- Make the refundable CTC permanent for those who need it most
- Ensure the largest corporations and wealthiest individuals pay a fairer share of taxes

#### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

- \$2 billion for Dislocated Worker Employment and Training
- \$1 billion for Adult Worker Employment and Training
- \$1.5 billion for Youth Workforce Investment Activities
- \$1 billion for Registered Apprenticeships, Youth Apprenticeships, and Pre-Apprenticeships
- \$5 billion for Industry or Sector Partnership Grants