



January 27, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

Thank you for your quick action and clear-eyed leadership to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and extend relief to American workers and families. While Congress has already provided American workers, families, schools, communities, and health care providers with significant aid since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing economic emergency, additional aid and stimulus is required to end the pandemic, provide direct support to those in need, ensure a lasting recovery, and prepare for future crises. This unprecedented crisis has called for unprecedented action, and as you have said, the relief provided thus far has been a down payment. Under your leadership, we have an extraordinary opportunity to build on the foundation of our previous efforts, learn from the challenges of this and previous recessions, and build back better.

As the House of Representatives works on the next COVID-19 relief and stimulus package, we would like to share with you the New Democrat Coalition's endorsed priorities to help end the pandemic and rebuild robust economic growth and opportunity that works for every American. These eleven proposals are organized into three overall categories:

Create More Widely Shared Economic Growth, Opportunity, and Jobs in All Parts of the Country

1. *The American Family Act* (AFA) to enhance and expand the Child Tax Credit (CTC), and make the CTC fully refundable and paid monthly (Led by Reps. Rosa DeLauro & Suzan DelBene).
2. *The Build Back Better Act* to provide flexible grants to persistently distressed communities to create quality jobs, connect residents to opportunities, and provide workers with resources to access and retain work (Led by Rep. Derek Kilmer).
3. *The Innovation Centers Acceleration Act* to launch a national race-to-the-top grant program to establish new American Innovation Centers in regions outside of existing advanced technology hubs (Led by Reps. Joseph Morelle & Terri Sewell).

Support Workers, Families, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments, and Businesses

4. An updated version of *the Worker Relief and Security Act (WRSA)* to provide for the automatic continuation and adjustment of the emergency pandemic unemployment insurance (UI) provisions for the duration of the national public health emergency and economic crisis (Led by Reps. Don Beyer and Derek Kilmer).
5. *The New Business Preservation Act* to create a new \$2 billion program at the Treasury Department that will partner with states to invest in promising new businesses alongside private investors in areas of the country that do not currently attract significant equity investment (Led by Rep. Dean Phillips).
6. *Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Proposal* to provide \$10 billion in funding to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for grants to states, D.C., territories, and tribes (Led by Rep. David Trone).

End the Pandemic, Equitably Deploy the Vaccine and Testing, Reopen Safely, and Prepare for Future Crises

7. *Rapid At-Home Antigen Testing Proposal* quickly scale-up manufacturing and deployment of inexpensive, frequent, rapid COVID-19 tests at home, school or the workplace (Led by Reps. Kim Schrier & Bill Foster).
8. *The Coronavirus Vaccine and Therapeutic Development Act* to authorize \$20 billion in funding through HHS for vaccine and therapeutic development, research, procurement, and expanded manufacturing capacity. The bill also establishes additional reporting requirements (Led by Rep. Annie Kuster).
9. *The Vaccine Fairness Act* to require the administration to report weekly on the number of vaccines distributed and administered, federal measures taken to ensure the vaccine reaches high-risk groups, supply chain bottlenecks, and progress on public outreach and education (Led by Rep. Angie Craig).
10. *The Health STATISTICS Act* to improve COVID-19 research by fixing detrimental inconsistencies in data collection and essential reporting to effectively combat the coronavirus pandemic (Led by Reps. Scott Peters & Lucy McBath).
11. *Technology Modernization Fund Proposal* to provide \$9 billion in funding for the Technology Modernization Fund to improve federal government IT systems to better support activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally (Led by Rep. Gerry Connolly).

The NDC proposals have clear alignment with your administration's American Rescue Plan and would build on the foundation of Congressional Democrats' core relief and recovery priorities, including robust state and local funding, protections for essential workers, housing and rental assistance, nutritional assistance, and more. As you work to develop the next COVID-19 package, we ask that you consider including the NDC-endorsed proposals.

We look forward to working together to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of our people and communities and to build back better with a vibrant economy that tackles the greatest challenges facing our nation through widely shared economic growth, opportunity, and innovation.

Sincerely,



Rep. Suzan K. DelBene
Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Scott Peters
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Ami Bera
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Sharice Davids
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Ann McLane Kuster
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Chrissy Houlahan
Whip
New Democrat Coalition



Del. Stacey Plaskett
Leadership Member
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Bradley S. Schneider
Leadership Member
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Kathy Manning
Freshman Leadership Representative
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Derek Kilmer
Chair Emeritus
New Democrat Coalition

Enclosed: Further details and resources on NDC COVID-19 relief & stimulus priorities

CC: Brian Deese, Director of the White House National Economic Council; Jeffrey Zients, Coordinator of the Biden Administration's COVID-19 Task Force