



## COVID-19 RELIEF & ECONOMIC STIMULUS ENDORSEMENTS

The New Democrat Coalition will work to end the pandemic and reopen schools and our economy safely; protect workers, families, and local businesses; help the hardest hit, especially communities of color; and stimulate the economy. Towards that end, the Coalition will work with Congressional Leadership, Committee Chairs, and the Biden Administration to include the following endorsed priorities in the next COVID-19 relief and stimulus package.

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

1. [H.R.928](#) the American Family Act of 2021, Reps. Suzan DelBene & Rosa DeLauro
  - This bill would enhance and expand the Child Tax Credit by creating a new \$300 per-month, per-child credit for children under 6 years of age and an increased \$250 per-month, per-child credit for children under 17 years of age—increasing the credit for all children and, for the first time, making the credit fully refundable.
  - Lead Senate Sponsors: Sen. Michael Bennet, D-CO; Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-OH
2. The [Build Back Better Act](#), Rep. Derek Kilmer
  - This bill would provide flexible grants administered by the Economic Development Agency (EDA) to persistently distressed communities to create quality jobs, raise median wages, connect residents to opportunities, and provide workers with resources to access and retain work.
3. [H.R.476](#) the Innovation Centers Acceleration Act, Reps. Joseph Morelle & Terri Sewell
  - This bill would launch a national race-to-the-top grant program to establish new American Innovation Centers in regions outside of existing advanced technology hubs. The purpose would be to spur greater economic investment as COVID-19 continues to strain the economy and place renewed emphasis on sectors key to economic resiliency and competitiveness, including biomedical technology, advanced manufacturing, and more.
  - Lead Senate Sponsor: Sen. Chris Coons, D-DE

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

4. An updated version of [H.R. 7821](#), the Worker Relief and Security Act (WRSA), Rep. Don Beyer and Derek Kilmer
  - This bill would provide long-term certainty and support to unemployed workers, those hit hardest by the economic crisis. The updated bill would provide for the automatic continuation and adjustment of the emergency pandemic unemployment insurance (UI) provisions included in the end of year package, including additional weeks of benefits and weekly bonus UI payments for the duration of the national public health emergency and economic crisis.
  - Lead Senate Sponsors: Sen. Jack Reed, D-RI, Sen. Michael Bennet, D-CO
5. [H.R.1020](#) the New Business Preservation Act, Rep. Dean Phillips
  - This bill would 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. Special consideration will be given to women- and minority-owned businesses, who face additional barriers in accessing investment capital.
  - Lead Senate Sponsor: Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-MN

6. [Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Proposal](#), Rep. David Trone
  - COVID-19 has taken a significant mental health toll, and worsened the substance abuse [crisis](#) in the U.S. This proposal would provide \$10 billion in funding to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for grants to states, D.C., territories, and tribes. This includes \$5Bn for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) program to prevent and treat substance use disorder, and \$5Bn for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) program to support children and adults with mental illness. The proposal would also waive requirements with respect to allowable activities, timelines, or reporting requirements for SABG and MHBG as deemed necessary to facilitate a grantee's response to the coronavirus.

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

7. Rapid At-Home Antigen Testing [Proposal](#), Reps. Kim Schrier & Bill Foster
  - This proposal would quickly scale-up manufacturing and deployment of inexpensive, frequent, rapid COVID-19 tests—at home, school or the workplace—to prevent infected individuals from unknowingly spreading COVID-19 in their communities in order to safely re-open our schools and reboot our economy.
8. [H.R.979](#) the Vaccine Fairness Act, Rep. Angie Craig
  - This bill would direct HHS to provide regular updates on the federal government's vaccine distribution efforts. It would help ensure a transparent and equitable vaccine distribution process by requiring 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.
9. [H.R.349](#) the Coronavirus Vaccine and Therapeutic Development Act of 2021, Rep. Annie Kuster
  - Authorizes \$20 billion in funding through HHS for both vaccine and therapeutic development, research, procurement, and expanded manufacturing capacity.
  - Requires a report from the Secretary to the appropriate committees of jurisdiction, which would include updates on the amounts of vaccine and therapeutics necessary to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19, an assessment of current and future manufacturing capacity, and a plan to ensure manufacturing meets established distribution goals.
10. [H.R.831](#) the Health STATISTICS Act of 2021, Reps. Scott Peters & Lucy McBath
  - This bill would improve COVID-19 research by fixing detrimental inconsistencies in data collection and essential reporting to effectively combat the coronavirus pandemic.
11. Technology Modernization Fund [Proposal](#), Rep. Gerry Connolly
  - This proposal would 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.