

The COVID Agreement Helps Rebuild Our Nation By...

Providing Relief to our Small Businesses

- Provides over **\$280 billion** to reopen and strengthen the PPP program.
 - Businesses under 300 employees and have had a 25% reduction in revenue are eligible for a second round.
 - Increases the PPP loan amount for Restaurants and Hotels from 2.5x payroll to 3.5x, providing an extra month's worth of payroll support
 - Codifies rules for faith-based organizations and churches to ensure eligibility remains intact.
 - Makes eligible 501c6s, destination marketing organizations (DMOs).
- Creates a simplified PPP loan forgiveness application for loans under \$150,000 dollars
- Allows employers to deduct PPP related businesses expenses.
 - Expands list of eligible expenses to include:
 - software, cloud computing, and other human resources and accounting needs
 - property damage costs due to public disturbances that occurred during 2020 that are not covered by insurance
 - covered supplier costs
 - worker protection expenditures (PPE)
- Repeals CARES Act provision that requires PPP borrowers to deduct their EIDL advance from their PPP loan forgiveness amount.
- Extends the repayment period of deferred payroll taxes through December 31, 2021. Penalties and interest on deferred unpaid tax liability will not accrue until January 1, 2022.

Producing and Distributing a Cure

- **Nearly \$20 billion** for the production of vaccines and therapeutics, covering the cost for everyone who needs it.
- **\$8.75 billion** for distribution of vaccines. This includes cold chain, advance freezers, and supporting state efforts.
- **\$3 billion** for the national stockpile.

Protecting our Physicians

- Many of our physicians expected to see payment reductions in 2021. (*This is the "E&M code" issue that many specialty physicians have been concerned about.*) We prevent at least 2/3 of these cuts from going through by establishing:
 - A three-year delay of a new add-on code that reduces reimbursement to specialty providers.
 - A **\$3 billion** across the board increase in physician payments in 2021.
 - Three additional months of Medicare sequester relief.
 - Ways to allow more providers to access Alternative Payment Model bonuses, giving physicians added incentives to provide high-quality and cost-efficient care.
 - An additional \$20 billion distribution from the Provider Relief Fund to help doctors who have had to reduce services.

Supporting our Working Families and Students

- **\$600** stimulus checks per individual/child (**\$1200** per married couple).
 - Capped at \$75,000 gross adjusted income per individual (\$150,000 for married couples)
 - Only people with a valid SSN qualify, ending payments to the deceased and undocumented.
 - IRS will use 2019 tax information.
- **\$10 billion** in Child Care and Development Block Grant Program (CCDBG)
 - Funds may be used to:
 - Provide relief from copayments and tuition payments for families and to pay a portion of the child care provider's costs ordinarily paid by families;



- To continue payments and assistance to child care providers for fixed costs and increased operating expenses in the event of decreased enrollment or closures, and to assure facilities are able to remain open or to reopen;
- Stabilize the child care sector against increased operating expenses;
- Provide child care assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, farmworkers, or other essential workers, regardless of other eligibility requirements within the CCDBG program;
- **\$82 billion** for the Education Stabilization Fund
 - 5% allocated to the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund for Governors to make emergency grants to education entities
 - **\$2.75B of which will be reserved for private schools to help cover costs due to the pandemic**
 - 67% in the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Fund (K-12)
 - 28% in the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
- Extends the tax credit through March 2021 for employers that continue to offer paid sick and family leave to their employees.
- Clarifies that personal protective equipment and other supplies used for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 are treated as eligible expenses for purposes of the educator expense deduction.
- Increases SNAP benefits by 15% for six months, but does not expand eligibility, and requires the Secretary to issue a report on redemption rate and unexpended balances.

Advancing Transportation and Infrastructure

- **\$45 billion** in transportation assistance.
 - **\$15 billion** for passenger air carriers to retain employees;
 - **\$2 billion** for airports;
 - **\$2 billion** for grants, loans, and loan guarantees to transportation services providers, including the motorcoach, over-the-road bus industry, and private school bus operators;
 - **\$10 billion** for state departments of transportation.
- Includes the bipartisan, bicameral Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020.

Ending Surprise Medical Bills

- ***This is the biggest patient protection provision since the Republican-established Medicare Part D.***
- Allows for independent arbitration and dispute resolution between the insurer and provider, leaving the patient out of the process.
 - Includes air ambulance providers.
- Billed charges and government payer rates cannot be considered during arbitration.
- No threshold for arbitration.
- No government rate-setting.
- Includes good-government guardrails to encourage in-network agreements and prevent abuse and overuse of the arbitration process.

Expanding Rural Broadband to Underserved Americans

- **\$1.9 billion** for the rip-and-replace program for communications providers with 10,000,000 subscribers or less to replace equipment in their communications networks that poses a national security threat.
- **\$300 million** for broadband deployment program to support broadband infrastructure deployment to unserved areas, prioritizing unserved areas and rural areas.
- **\$250 million** to the FCC to carry out the temporary telehealth pilot program authorized under the CARES Act
- Establishes a **\$1 billion** program at NTIA to support broadband infrastructure deployment, telehealth, and broadband adoption activities for federally recognized tribal nations.

Providing Assistance and Flexibility to our States/Localities while Preventing Liberal Bailouts

- ***This bill ensures that failed liberal Cities and States do not receive direct taxpayer funding!***

- Extends the time period, from December 30, 2020 to December 31, 2021, in which State and local recipients of the existing U.S. Treasury distributed CARES Act Sec. 5001 Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) can make eligible pandemic expenses. This allows more of the already distributed \$150 billion in CARES Act funds to be utilized.
- Under the CARES Act, Congress funded the Exchange Stabilization Fund (ESF) to stabilize our financial markets and provide a backstop that allowed the Fed to create targeted, temporary lending facilities for creditworthy borrowers. These temporary lending facilities did their job and are set to expire at the end of the year.
- The bill:
 - Rescinds the unused **\$429 billion** of CARES Act funding for the ESF and Fed facilities so that Democrats cannot misuse the funds for their progressive agenda.
 - Ends the CARES lending facilities at the end of the year, which is following the clear language and the Congressional intent of the CARES Act.
 - Ensures that the same Fed facilities previously funded by CARES cannot be restarted without Congressional consent, with an exception for Term Asset Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF) which was created before CARES. The TALF supports

Assisting Farmers, Ranchers, and the Agriculture Sector

- **\$13 billion** in support to farmers, ranchers, and the agriculture sector
 - The Secretary of Agriculture is directed to provide assistance to specifically support specialty crop, non-specialty crop, livestock, dairy and poultry producers largely by enhancing assistance received under the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP).
 - Directs \$1.5 billion for the purchase of food and agricultural products for distribution via non-profit organizations or for the procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for food processors.

Extending Critical Health Care Programs

- Three-year extensions of Medicare, Medicaid, and Public Health programs.
 - Includes:
 - Community Health Centers;
 - Teaching Health Centers;
 - Diabetes Programs;
 - Eliminating DSH reductions through 2023.

Improving Health Care for Rural and Underserved Communities

- Helping save rural hospitals by letting them become a new Rural Emergency Hospital, which gives them the Medicare funding and flexibility to offer health care services their community needs.
 - More specifically, the policy creates a new, voluntary Medicare payment designation that allows struggling Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) or small, rural hospitals with less than 50 beds to convert to a Rural Emergency Hospital (REH).
 - This would preserve beneficiary access to emergency medical care in rural areas that would otherwise be left with nothing if their CAH or rural hospital closed.
- Reforming in a comprehensive way how Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) are paid.
- Allowing RHCs and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to furnish and bill for hospice attending physician services when RHC and FQHC patients become terminally ill and elect the hospice benefit.
- Expanding access to mental health service through utilizing telehealth which improves beneficiary access, particularly in areas low on mental health professionals.
- Allowing for Physician Assistants to directly bill Medicare, expanding beneficiaries access to care providers in areas lacking health providers.
- Fixing payment for oxygen and oxygen equipment that allows for increased affordability and access to those supplies in rural areas.