



Congressional Progressive Caucus Progressive Proposition Agenda

I. Lower the Cost of Living

Affording Care

- **Investing in Home and Community Based Care:** Invest \$450 billion in Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) to provide access to care and create HCBS jobs that pay \$15 an hour and include the right to join a union.
- **Protect Patients and Nurses' Safety:** Ensure high quality of care by establishing strong nurse-to-patient ratios at long-term and acute care facilities.
- **Establish True Universal Childcare:** Eliminate work requirements, cap out-of-pocket childcare costs to 7 percent of household income for all families, provide training and support for the childcare workforce including a pathway to unionization, provide direct federal funding opportunities for localities, and eliminate administrative barriers.

Lowering Health Care Costs

- **Expand Medicaid to Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap**
- **Expand Medicare Drug Price Negotiation to Cover All Drugs:** Expand the numbers and types of drugs eligible for negotiation, launch prices, and inflation caps, not just sole-source drugs but those with limited competition and allow HHS to engage in such negotiations for any drug without statutory delay; ensure all Americans receive negotiated lower prices, including the uninsured; cap drug prices at the average price in other OECD countries; enforce negotiation and associated price limits through tax penalties; eliminate Medicare Part D's non-interference clause; and ensure that taxpayer-funded drugs are affordable for all.
- **Affordable Drug Public Manufacturing:** Establish an Office of Drug Manufacturing within HHS tasked with manufacturing select generic drugs, including insulin, and offering them to consumers at a fair price that guarantees affordable patient access.
- **Improving Medicare:** Expand benefits to include dental, vision, and hearing. Lower the Medicare eligibility age. Crack down on Medicare privatization, overcharging, and wealthy businesses' tax avoidance to strengthen Medicare's solvency.
- **Invest in Public Providers:** Increase funding for all public health care systems, including community health centers, behavioral health providers, Indian health providers, rural and veterans' hospitals, and non-law-enforcement first responders for health emergencies
- **Crack down on Private Equity Buy-Outs in Healthcare.**
- **Reducing Maternal and Infant Mortality:** Address the maternal and infant mortality crises and their disproportionate impacts on communities of color, particularly Black women.
- **Expand Initiatives to Provide Food as Medicine:** Establish a pilot in Medicare to provide coverage for medically tailored meals to combat chronic diseases.

- **Major New Investments in Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment and Prevention**, particularly to address the opioid epidemic.
- **Shield Patients with Medical Debt from Financial Devastation:** Codify CFPB efforts to remove medical bills from Americans' credit reports, stop creditors from relying on medical bills for underwriting decisions, and stop coercive collection practices.

Affording Housing

- **Enact \$250 Billion in Investments to Make Housing Affordable:** Guarantee Housing Choice Vouchers for all eligible Americans and convert the funding status from annual appropriations to mandatory spending; invest massively in the public housing repair backlog and National Housing Trust Fund, with significant resources reserved for permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness.
- **Eliminate Homelessness in America:** Prohibit landlords from discriminating against renters, promote evidenced-based "housing first" models, provide funding for outreach and case management, permanently authorize homeless assistance grant programs and expand eligibility for VA homelessness programs.
- **Increase the Supply of Affordable Housing:** Eliminate the Faircloth Amendment to allow for needed expansion of public housing stock; provide incentives to convert vacant commercial facilities into residential properties.
- **Greening Public Housing:** Finance weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades consistent with the Green New Deal for Public Housing.
- **Homeownership Assistance:** Close the U.S. racial wealth and homeownership gaps by providing \$100 billion in direct assistance to help first-time, working-class homebuyers purchase their first home. This would include assistance for down payments, closing costs, and to help buydown mortgage interest rates.
- **Affordable Housing Acquisition Fund:** Establish a permanent fund to prevent the loss of viable rental options in the wake of an economic downturn.
- **Stabilize Rents and Protect Renters:** Require HUD to bring Project-Based Rental Assistance to property owners into compliance with housing preservation and safety regulations. Ensure multi-family housing properties under FHFA's oversight includes anti-rent-gouging protections and "good cause" eviction standards to control and stabilize rents. Direct Treasury Department to limit rent increase amounts and frequency in LIHTC properties. Prohibit discriminatory screening practices in the housing market, including the use of discriminatory algorithms. Protect organizing tenants from retaliation or evictions, and expand the HCVP to provide security-deposit assistance to low-income renters.
- **Crack down on Private Equity and Hedge Fund Acquisitions in Housing,** including through federal restrictions on private equity and corporate ownership of rental housing and a national rental registry at HUD to improve transparency of ownership.
- **Codify HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule** to overcome segregation, eliminate disparities in opportunities, and foster inclusive communities free from discrimination.

Supporting Working Families and Reducing Debt

- **Reestablish the American Rescue Plan Expanded and Improved Child Tax Credit (CTC)** to drastically reduce child poverty, provide a fully refundable monthly payment to working-class families and fully eliminate administrative burdens, including work requirements.

- **Expand Social Security:** Increase and expand benefits for Social Security recipients for the first time in over 50 years by closing tax loopholes and ensuring that millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share in taxes.
- **Strengthen Pell Grants and Loan Forgiveness Programs.**
- **Provide Affordable Broadband Access:** Promote accessible, affordable and reliable access to broadband internet by creating permanent and progressive sources of funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and other digital-equity initiatives.
- **Ensure Electricity Is Affordable, Renewable, and Reliable:** Lower energy bills for working families by cracking down on private utility companies that engage in price-gouging and targeted blackouts. Support utilities that deliver renewable energy, dependable service, and affordable costs, and remove barriers for municipalities and rural cooperatives to provide clean electricity.
- **Provide Public Banking Options for all Americans:** Advance options for low- or no-cost financial services through possibilities such as post offices and Federal Reserve checking accounts.
- **Ban Forced Arbitration in Consumer, Antitrust, Employment, and Civil Rights Cases:** Stop the use of unfair forced arbitration clauses, which are widely used to prevent Americans from seeking justice when corporations cheat and scam them.
- **Improve the IRS:** Provide free-filing tools and pre-prepared returns to all Americans. Protect and increase resources for the IRS to improve customer service, close the tax gap, and modernize its operations to better serve taxpayers.

II. Boost Wages and Worker Power

- **Strengthen Labor Law:** Enact comprehensive labor law reforms like those included in the PRO Act. Expand collective bargaining, the right to unionize, and workplace democracy, roll back right-to-work laws, and guarantee such rights, benefits and enforcement for all workers, including public employees, agricultural laborers, VA employees, and domestic workers.
- **Equal Pay for Equal Work:** Strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to ensure women can challenge pay discriminations and hold employers accountable.
- **Provide Workers a Living Wage:** Eliminate the tipped minimum wage and raise the minimum wage to establish a true, dignified living wage and index to inflation and local housing costs, and phase out the subminimum wage for youth and workers with disabilities.
- **Schedules That Work:** Protect workers who ask for schedule changes from retaliation, require employers to consider their requests and provide schedules in advance, and provide compensation to employees when their schedules change abruptly.
- **Protect Health Care and UI For Striking Workers:** Prohibit employers from terminating employee health insurance coverage during labor disputes and provide unemployment insurance for striking workers.
- **Codify Important Decisions and Rules from the NLRB and DOL:** Codify the NLRB Cemex decision on timely union elections and the joint employer rule to ensure that workers have a real voice at the bargaining table when multiple companies control their working conditions. Codify the DOL independent contractor rule to prevent the misclassification of workers so that they can receive the benefits and job safety they deserve.
- **Crack Down on Abusive Employers:** Strengthen laws to prevent corporations from engaging in wage theft of their employees, stiffen penalties for misconduct, and legally

empower workers seeking to recover their stolen wages. Establish stronger civil and new criminal penalties for corporations illegally employing children. Hold employers accountable for workplace violations by giving workers tools to avoid immigration-related retaliation.

- **Improve Americans' Work-Life Balance and Wellbeing:** Mandate that employers provide overtime pay to more workers and after fewer hours per week in order to shorten the workweek, increase pay and free time, boost productivity, and create more employment.
- **Use Federal Spending to Improve Workers' Rights:** Require that federal contractors pay high wages, support union rights and collective bargaining, follow environmental law, support pensions for workers, and reduce inequality between executives and median workers, including potential caps and limits on executive pay, stock buybacks and private-equity-leveraged buyouts.
- **Family and Medical Insurance Leave:** Establish a federal public program that would administer a 12-week paid FMLA program and grant workers greater ability to take off work for health, caregiving, and family needs.
- **Protect American Workers from Offshoring and Provide Support and Retraining,** including through reinstating Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).
- **Strong Updated Workplace Safety Measures:** Codify strong federal heat, smoke, and wind safety standards and establish health and safety protections for workers facing climate-related hazards, workplace violence, and infectious diseases.

III. Advance Justice

- **Strengthen Reproductive Rights:** Codify the rights to abortion, contraception, and in vitro fertilization. Repeal the Hyde Amendment.
- **LGBTQI Equality:** Ensure nationwide, consistent, explicit non-discrimination protections for LGBTQI people and people with HIV at work, school, and public spaces. Codify the rights of transgender, nonbinary and intersex people, including gender affirming care and health care. Prohibit conversion therapy.
- **Comprehensive Policing Reform:** Pass a comprehensive policing reform bill to ensure that policing reflects community values and upholds civil rights, demilitarize the police, and invests more resources in communities.
- **Marijuana Legalization:** Reduce criminalization and incarceration through sentencing reform, legalizing cannabis, expunging records, providing restorative justice, and an accelerated and reformed clemency process for people with marijuana-related convictions.
- **Provide a Roadmap to Citizenship for Immigrants,** including essential workers, farmworkers, TPS recipients, Dreamers, deported veterans and family members, and others.
- **Address the Legacy of Slavery:** Establish a commission to study and develop proposals for reparations for Black Americans.
- **Abolish the Federal Death Penalty.**
- **Expand Opportunities in Higher Education** through support for Minority Serving Institutions
- **Restart Benefits for Medicaid-Eligible Incarcerated Individuals Shortly Before Reentry.**
- **Create a Workable Immigration System** and strengthen the capacity of the Federal government to efficiently and fairly process immigration benefits to relieve backlogs,

expand legal pathways, promote family unity, fortify our ability to attract the best and brightest, and ensure robust and timely access to work authorization.

- **Create a Fair and Humane Immigration System:** Disentangle the criminal legal and deportation systems; create scalable consequences to immigration violations; require immigration enforcement actions to comply with the Fourth Amendment; strengthen protections for workers; and end programs that deputize state and local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration laws.
- **Dignity of Immigration Detention:** Reduce reliance on detention by ending the use of detention for punitive purposes or for profit, repealing mandatory detention, and creating humane community-based alternatives to detention.
- **Promote our Ability to Welcome Immigrants:** Provide robust funding for the Shelter and Services Program to support state and local governments and eliminate the arbitrary 150-day wait time for asylum seekers to apply for work authorization.
- **Ensure Respect for Tribal Obligations:** Fully meet and fund all treaty and trust obligations to Tribal Nations and communities, including in public land management, and enshrine the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

IV. Protect Our Planet and Our People

- **Establish National Clean Energy Standards:** Create millions of clean jobs in the renewable energy sector to help meet emissions reductions through binding, enforceable federal clean-energy standards in fuel and electricity.
- **Invest resources required to tackle climate change and protect communities:** Invest in robust renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts consistent with IPCC requirements to stay within 1.5 degrees of warming while prioritizing community adaptation and resilience efforts and investments.
- **Guarantee Clean and Affordable Drinking Water for All Americans,** free from lead, PFAS, plastics, and other contaminants. Ensure that every person in the country has access to affordable drinking water by creating a permanent water assistance program at the Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Expand the American Climate Corps** by investing further in the landmark White House program to put a new generation of Americans to work conserving our lands and waters, bolstering community resilience, advancing environmental justice, deploying clean energy, implementing energy efficient technologies, and tackling climate change.
- **End Domestic and International Fossil Fuel Subsidies and Enact a Windfall Profits Tax for Big Oil.**
- **Reduce Emissions at Federal Buildings and Federal Lands:** Make robust investments in renewable energy, efficiency, and storage projects on federal buildings, lands and waters, and end new leases for fossil fuel development.
- **End Hunger and Malnutrition while Supporting Farmers and Local Producers:** Expand access to affordable and nutritious food by investing in SNAP and WIC while supporting producers. Align USDA procurement with sustainable, equitable, and climate-friendly foods, prioritizing support for small and disadvantaged producers who reduce emissions by implementing climate mitigation strategies. Enforce antitrust law on agribusiness. Invest in rural infrastructure and small farms.
- **Accelerate Renewable Energy and Ensure Equitable Benefits:** Address barriers in permitting and transmission to accelerate renewable energy adoption, while protecting and strengthening bedrock environmental justice law to ensure robust community engagement and equitable benefits for Black, brown, Indigenous, and frontline communities.

- **Build on the Achievements of the Inflation Reduction Act:** Expand on the best provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act, including Direct Pay and the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Act.
- **Promote Affordable and Sustainable Transportation:** Invest in public transportation construction, maintenance, and operations in efficient and affordable bus rapid transit, light rail, metro, and regional rail projects that lower emissions, save time, and reduce congestion. Ensure all Americans have safe and affordable options, with an emphasis in electrifying and using renewable energy sources, while expanding walking and biking infrastructure.
- **Remove Harmful Toxins and Pollutants:** Protect communities and the environment with strong regulations on the use of PFAS and other harmful chemicals and release of plastic debris and microplastics. Limit the distribution of harmful and unnecessary single-use plastics.

V. Make Our Democracy Work

Voting Rights and Clean Campaigns

- **Strengthen Voting Rights:** Protect the right to vote by passing a broad and comprehensive voting rights bill that eliminates barriers to voting, particularly for Black, Indigenous, and communities of color, people with disabilities, currently and formerly incarcerated people, multilingual voters, and others. Provide same-day, automatic, and online voter registration and fully fund election administration support resources.
- **Improve Representation:** Create fairer, more efficient, and more representative elections by supporting ranked-choice voting and fix partisan gerrymandering by establishing multi-member districts for congressional elections and creating new requirements for congressional redistricting. Abolish the Electoral College.
- **D.C. Statehood** to grant the District of Columbia's 700,000 residents equal representation.
- **A Democratic Resolution to Puerto Rico's Political Status**, which allows for a process for the people of Puerto Rico to determine the island's future political status.
- **Bold Campaign Finance Reform:** Consistent with the For the People Act, end corruption and the dominance of big money and corporate interests by eliminating secret corporate spending in elections and implementing a campaign finance system that furthers the public good.
- **Codify Chevron Deference to Empower Agencies with Expertise to Protect Americans' Health and Wellbeing, Crack Down on Corporate Influence in Rulemaking, and Democratize the Rulemaking Process.**
- **Fully Fund Domestic Agencies to Carry out Their Mandates:** Ensure that Congress funds vital federal agencies represented by annual non-defense discretionary spending to realize their goals, returning to pre-austerity levels of 4 percent of GDP to better invest in Americans' health, education, and wellbeing while fostering long-term growth and innovation. This includes strengthening long under-resourced agencies like the NLRB and Veterans Affairs and preventing efforts to privatize services.

Making Congress Work for the American People

- **Eliminate or Reform the Filibuster:** Allow for the democratic consideration of essential legislation.
- **Ban on Congressional Stock Trading and Ownership.**

Reforming the Judiciary

- **Strengthen Ethics:** Strengthen our nation's judiciary by imposing an enforceable code of conduct on the Supreme Court, banning federal judges from owning individual stocks, strengthen restrictions on judicial gifts and privately funded travel, improve disclosures, overhaul the judicial recusal process, and create new mechanisms for judicial accountability.
- **Structural Reforms:** Expand the number of justices on the Supreme Court, implement term limits, and expand the federal judiciary by creating new judgeships.

VI. Break Corporations' Hold on Our Economy

- **Promote Competition and Take on Monopolies:** Strengthen and expand antitrust laws to end monopolistic practices, protect consumers' and workers' interests, and guarantee fair markets to ensure equal footing for small businesses.
- **Increase Taxes on Stock Buybacks.**
- **Establish a Billionaire Minimum Tax and New Taxes on the Ultra-Wealthy.**
- **Full Repeal of the Trump Tax Cuts for Corporations and Individuals Making Over \$400,000,** and advance a more just new tax rate for capital gains and corporate taxes.
- **Tax Companies with Excessive CEO to Worker Pay Gaps.**
- **Eliminate Tax Incentives that Outsource Jobs and Offshore Profits.**
- **Develop Strong Guardrails on Artificial Intelligence:** Protect our democracy and promote transparency, consumer protections and informed consent, ensuring nondiscrimination in financial services, health care, and online services.
- **Enact Comprehensive Online and Data Privacy Rights:** Enact strong federal protections of Americans' constitutional privacy rights, including reproductive health information; prohibit data brokers from selling Americans' private information to governments; and hold technology companies accountable for protecting children's safety online.
- **Crack Down on Junk Fees and Malicious Pricing Practices.**

VII. Provide World-Class Public Education

- **Establish Universal Pre-K and Kindergarten.**
- **Pay Raises for Educators:** Create a dignified income floor for all public school teachers and education support professionals in America to recruit and retain committed, passionate educators.
- **Green New Deal for Public Schools:** Invest in renewable energy, pollutant removal, and strong air and water quality in public schools.
- **Support Student Debt Cancellation and Relief.**
- **College for All:** Provide free tuition for public colleges, universities and community colleges, and trade schools.
- **Robust Federal Support for K-12 Education,** including support for Title I schools, wraparound student services, special education, free universal school meals, and ending school meal debt.