



Executive Action Agenda 2022

Progressives understand our mandate in this governing moment: deliver for working people, and leave no one behind.

Democrats made important and significant progress in 2021. Throughout a global pandemic, economic recession, and rebuilding from the Trump years, we were able to: create 6.4 million jobs, raise wages, bring unemployment down to its lowest rate since 1969, lower hunger across the country by 32 percent and child poverty by half, and bring 4.2 million more people health insurance. *But the work is far from done.*

This slate is designed to accomplish the following:

- Lower costs and raise wages for working people to provide urgently needed economic relief;
- Advance racial and gender equity by investing in communities that have historically been neglected;
- Deliver on our promises — on key progressive priorities, and on commitments that Democrats have made for decades, as well as those specific to the Biden agenda.

While Congress continues to work for a robust reconciliation package to deliver as much of President Biden's economic agenda as we can, we know that people need relief from rising costs now. Working families want to see a government that delivers for them.

The CPC's agenda for executive actions will do exactly that. These policies can have an immediate and meaningful impact for families across the country.

Legislating remains critical. It's our best chance to deliver enduring relief, and to achieve goals that can only be accomplished through acts of Congress, like allocating government funding, banning corporate price gouging, and more.

This isn't about abandoning the legislative path. It's about realizing the promise of Democratic governance, and quickly — using all tools available to make it happen.

This is Democrats' moment to deliver on the agenda that more than 81 million people voted for. Let's be guided by racial, gender and economic justice — not corporations' bottom lines.

Developed in consultation with grassroots progressive movements and with the input of the full 98-member caucus, this slate includes action across eight policy areas to:

- Lower health care costs
- Combat the climate crisis and reduce fossil fuel dependence
- Expand worker power and raise wages
- Cancel federal student loan debt
- Invest in care economy jobs and standards
- Advance immigrants' rights
- Regulate for economic and tax fairness
- Deliver on the promise of equal justice under the law

LOWER HEALTH CARE COSTS

The coronavirus pandemic laid bare the devastating disparities in our health care system. Our recovery from the pandemic must include lowering crushing health care costs to put money back in people's pockets. And since the pandemic won't be over until it's over everywhere, we must continue to work toward global equity in recovery. The CPC is calling on the Biden administration to:

- Lower the cost of prescription drugs, including insulin, EpiPens, and HIV/AIDS treatments.
- Make health care more affordable for 5.1 million people by expanding eligibility for cost-saving premium subsidies under the ACA.
- Expand access to funding, vaccine technology and treatments to developing countries to end the pandemic.
- Reverse the Trump-era efforts to privatize Medicare.

RAISE WAGES & EXPAND WORKER POWER

The workers of this country are done being mistreated, underpaid, and undervalued. The Biden administration has advanced some of the most pro-labor policies in decades. Now, we're calling on them to build on that commitment with increased action:

- Strengthen and expand outdated overtime protections, increasing the threshold to be eligible for overtime pay to \$85,000 to give millions of workers a raise.
- Strengthen labor protections for federal contractors to protect their union organizing rights and provide benefits including sick leave, overtime, and vacation time.
- Issue new heat and wind standards to protect workers, including farm, warehouse, and construction workers.
- Promote the protection and robust enforcement of labor, employment and civil rights through immigration protections and access to work authorizations to safeguard against retaliation so that all workers, regardless of immigration status, can exercise their rights.

Under current laws, only
15 percent of full time, salaried workers qualify for overtime!

Lowering the cost of insulin would impact

7.4

MILLION Americans.



ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE & REDUCE FOSSIL FUEL DEPENDENCE

There is no people-centered agenda that doesn't include aggressive, bold climate action and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. While the executive branch has made progress, there is more to do to meet this moment and lower costs by transitioning to clean energy. The CPC is calling on the Biden administration to:

- Marshal the enormous purchasing power of the federal government to invest in clean, affordable, homegrown renewable energy to support energy independence and cut energy costs for everyday Americans.
- Bring down energy prices by declaring a National Climate Emergency and invoking the Defense Production Act to increase the production of renewable energy, emphasizing frontline communities most affected by pollution and the climate crisis.
- Save taxpayers billions by ending domestic and international federal fossil fuel subsidies and reinstating the crude oil export ban.
- Save tens of thousands of lives annually by updating and strengthening clean air and water protections.

CANCEL FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN DEBT

45 million Americans are stuck in the student debt trap, preventing them from buying homes, starting families, and investing in their communities. This crisis disproportionately affects Black and Brown borrowers, who are seeing student debt drag down their finances even past retirement age. The CPC is calling on the Biden administration to put money in millions of people's pockets by using existing authorities to cancel federal student loan debt.

ADVANCE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

The pandemic underscored how critical immigrants are — as essential workers who kept the country running, and as neighbors in our communities. But too many are still living without legal protections, and under systems that exploit their labor. While Congress continues to fight for a roadmap to citizenship, we must begin by ensuring immigrants' and their families' rights are protected. The CPC is calling on the Biden administration to:

- Provide relief to those coming from countries in crisis by granting Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation.
- Ensure a fair and humane asylum system by ending Remain in Mexico (MPP) and Title 42 expulsions, and reforming the immigration court system.
- Raise wages and improve labor protections so employers can no longer use the H-2B visa program to underpay and exploit migrant and U.S. workers.
- Ensure those impacted by the Muslim Ban are able to secure status, obtain lost green cards, and other basic services without additional burdens.

DELIVER ON THE PROMISE OF EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW

For decades, grassroots activists have been pushing for a just criminal legal system: one that would protect, rather than criminalize, the humanity of the people who interact with it, and that doesn't have a separate set of rules for the wealthy and large corporations. As Congress pursues legislation, the administration can act now to advance racial and economic justice and fairness in our justice system. The CPC is calling on the Biden administration to:

- Hold corporations accountable for price gouging, wage theft, workplace safety violations, and anti-union retaliation by developing an interagency task force to investigate, prosecute, and deter white collar crime.
- Help reduce deadly force by police officers by establishing strict national standards, and requiring data sharing on use of force from departments across the country.
- Demilitarize law enforcement by preventing the transfer of certain military-grade weapons to federal, tribal, state, and local police.
- Address mass incarceration by granting clemency to those complying with the pandemic home confinement program regardless of the length of their sentences, and establish an independent, permanent board to review more than 18,000 pending clemency petitions.



INVEST IN CARE ECONOMY JOBS & STANDARDS

Caregiving in America has almost always been provided by women, especially Black and Brown women, working for poverty wages without protection or recourse. We must build an economy that respects this essential work and treats it with dignity, and ensures children get the care they need, allowing parents to return to the workforce. The CPC is calling on the Biden administration to:

- Expand access to in-home care for veterans and create good union jobs.
- Grow strong child care worker unions that allow workers to organize.
- Encourage implementation of the Medicaid equal access rule that reflects the role of the workforce in ensuring access to health services.

REGULATE FOR ECONOMIC & TAX FAIRNESS

For too long, our economy and tax system have been rigged to favor those at the top and crush those at the bottom. Delivering for everyone who calls this country home must include restoring tax fairness. The CPC is calling on the Biden administration to:

- Close the carried interest loophole that allows Wall Street executives to pay lower tax rates by manipulating the system.
- Reverse Trump-era regulations that further expanded offshore tax loopholes created by the Republican Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and curb abuse of the law's tax shelters for real estate development in underinvested neighborhoods by wealthy investors
- Require that public companies disclose information about greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel-related assets.

LET'S GET THIS DONE.