

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 9, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House United States  
House of Representatives H-232, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

We write to you in appreciation of your leadership as House Democrats enacted the landmark American Rescue Plan to crush the coronavirus and provide economic relief to America's working families. We write to share the Progressive Caucus's legislative priorities as the House of Representatives begins considering President Biden's American Jobs Plan.

President Biden has made a compelling case to the American people that government can and should be a force for good in this country, and we agree that bold investments in good-paying union jobs, climate action, and caregiving are essential to uplifting families and building back better.

During the campaign, the president proposed investments totaling roughly [\\$7 trillion](#) for health, energy, infrastructure and child-care, including a four-year "[\\$2 trillion accelerated investment](#)" on climate-focused infrastructure alone, setting America on "an irreversible course to meet the ambitious climate progress that science demands." We strongly support that vision and believe the combination of two packages currently envisioned must go bigger and mirror that campaign proposal.

The current framework for the American Jobs Plan—roughly \$2 trillion over eight years, or 1 percent in annual GDP—encompasses physical infrastructure, caregiving, housing, workforce development, and other priorities. But this proposal invests only half the annual resources that President Biden originally proposed just on climate action alone. As a point of comparison, the American Rescue Plan directed roughly 9 percent of annual GDP in rapid assistance to the American people.

It is imperative that we build on the administration's infrastructure framework and use this uniquely historic opportunity to harness our governing majorities to decisively tackle the unemployment and climate crisis; deliver long-overdue wage growth for American workers; ensure equity and fairness for marginalized communities as part of this economic recovery; and reshape vital sectors of our economy—such as caregiving, clean energy, and manufacturing—so that they produce good, family-sustaining, union jobs with benefits.

Physical and human infrastructure needs are inextricably linked; our proposal must reflect the necessity of enacting both. People—especially women and people of color who have suffered disproportionate job losses during this recession—cannot get back to work without childcare, or long-term care, or investments in education and job retraining. This human infrastructure cannot be secondary to the physical infrastructure needs we have as a country. Our preference is that a single, ambitious package is enacted combining these two investments hand in hand.

After surveying its more than 90 member offices regarding their priorities for the American Jobs Plan, with nearly two-thirds of our Members responding, the Progressive Caucus wishes to share the following five priorities at this initial stage of infrastructure discussions:

**Priority #1: Strengthen the Care Economy**

- Invest \$450 billion in Medicaid home- and community-based services (HCBS)
  - President Biden supported creating over 1 million jobs in the home care industry. These jobs should pay \$15 an hour and include the right to join a union
- Strengthen the Child Care for Working Families Act, by making access to childcare a universal benefit, providing training and support for the childcare workforce, and investing in childcare facilities
- Establish Permanent Paid Family and Medical Leave

**Priority #2: Bold Investments in Affordable Housing**

- Guarantee Housing Choice Vouchers for all eligible Americans and convert the funding status from annual appropriations to mandatory spending
- \$70 billion to address the public housing repair backlog
- \$45 billion for the National Housing Trust Fund per year, of which \$26 billion should be reserved for permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness
- Eliminate the Faircloth Amendment, which prohibits the net expansion of public housing
- A Green New Deal for Public Housing
- Establish a federal Affordable Housing Acquisition fund to prevent the loss of viable rental options in the wake of an economic downturn

**Priority #3: Dramatically Lower Drug Prices; Use Savings to Pay for Public Health Expansion**

- The CPC wishes to improve on H.R. 3, including adopting recommendations provided by drug pricing advocates and the Biden-Sanders Unity Taskforce, such as:
  - Everyone—including the uninsured and private-plan participants—should benefit not just from lower negotiated prices, but from inflationary caps on drug prices
  - Expand the numbers and types of drugs eligible for negotiation, launch prices, and inflation caps, including not just sole-source drugs but those with limited competition
  - Cap drug prices at the average price in other OECD countries
  - Enforce negotiation and associated price limits through tax penalties
  - Use savings to pay for lowering Medicare eligibility age and expanding benefits to include dental, vision and hearing

**Priority #4: Bold Investments in Climate Jobs and Impacted Communities**

- *EJ 40*: Direct at least 40 percent of investment funds to communities on the frontlines of our economic, environmental, and public health crises.
- *Establish a National Clean Energy Standard*: Create millions of clean jobs in the renewable energy sector to help meet emissions reductions through binding, enforceable federal clean-energy standards.
- *Direct Climate Jobs Programs*: Establish or enhance public employment programs to directly put Americans to work serving the public interest, including the robust funding of a Civilian Climate Corps, Public Health Jobs Corps, and Resilience Job Corps.
- *Invest Resources Required to Tackle Climate Change*: Invest in robust renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts consistent with IPCC requirements to stay within 1.5 degrees of planetary warming

**Priority #5: Roadmap for Citizenship and Inclusion for Immigrant Communities**

- Provide a roadmap to citizenship for essential workers, TPS recipients, and Dreamers. If possible, include as many policies from the U.S. Citizenship Act, a key priority of the CPC, Hispanic Caucus and Asian and Pacific American Caucus.

We are delighted to share these infrastructure priorities on behalf of our members, and look forward to working with you and our committee chairs to enact an ambitious infrastructure plan with the speed and urgency that you have rightly advocated.

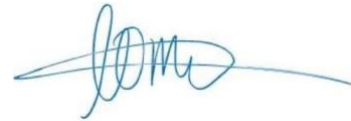
Sincerely,



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress