

## ***The American Rescue Plan to Fund Vaccinations, Provide Immediate, Direct Relief to Working Families Bearing the Brunt of the COVID-19 Crisis, and Support Struggling Communities***

The COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding economic crisis are devastating families across the country. While Congress's bipartisan action in December was a step in the right direction, it was only a down payment. We are in a race against time, and absent additional government assistance, the economic and public health crises could worsen in the months ahead, schools will not be able to safely reopen, and vaccinations will remain far too slow.

Today, President-elect Biden is announcing the American Rescue Plan, a historic emergency legislative package to change the course of the pandemic, provide millions of households immediate relief, build a bridge towards economic recovery, and cut child poverty in half.

- **Mount a national vaccination program, contain COVID-19, and safely reopen schools**, including by setting up community vaccination sites nationwide, scaling up testing and tracing, eliminating supply shortage problems, investing in high-quality treatments, providing paid sick leave to contain spread of the virus, addressing health disparities, and making targeted investments to meet the president-elect's goal of safely re-opening a majority of K-8 schools in the first 100 days.
- **Deliver immediate relief to working families bearing the brunt of this crisis** by sending \$1,400 per-person checks to households across America, providing direct housing and nutrition assistance, expanding access to safe and reliable childcare and affordable healthcare, increasing the minimum wage, extending unemployment insurance, and giving families with kids and childless workers an emergency boost this year.
- **Support communities that are struggling in the wake of COVID-19** by providing support for the hardest-hit small businesses, and protecting the jobs of the first responders, transit workers, and other essential workers we depend on.

In addition to addressing the public health and economic crises head on, the president-elect's plan will provide emergency funding to upgrade federal information technology infrastructure and address the recent breaches of federal government data systems. This is an urgent national security issue that cannot wait.

President-elect Biden's \$1.9 trillion plan is ambitious, but achievable, and will rescue the American economy and start beating the virus. Congress should act expeditiously to help working families, communities, and small businesses persevere through the pandemic.

This legislative package is needed now to address the immediate crises. In the coming weeks, President-elect Biden will lay out his economic recovery plan to invest in America, create millions of additional good-paying jobs, and build back better than before.