

COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION  
AND LABOR



116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

# COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2019 - OCTOBER 2020





House Democrats are focused on working for the people by lowering health care costs, raising wages for workers and the economy, and cleaning up corruption in Washington. At the start of the 116th Congress, Democrats on the House Committee on Education and Labor pledged to help build a nation where everyone can succeed.

Over the past 21 months, the Committee kept its promise to work for the people by advancing legislation to improve the lives of students, workers, and families, and conducting oversight to hold the Trump Administration accountable.



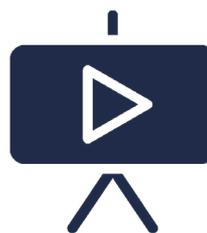
**19 BILLS ADVANCED**  
OUT OF COMMITTEE



**61 HEARINGS**  
HELD



**34 COMMITTEE BILLS**  
PASSED BY THE HOUSE



**14 BRIEFINGS**  
HELD

# EDUCATION

In the 116th Congress, the Committee advanced legislation to fulfill the promise of equity in education and expand access to opportunity for all students.



## BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSE

### [FUTURE ACT \(H.R. 5363\)](#)

Preserves \$255 million for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority-Serving Institutions.

### [REOPEN AND REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS ACT OF 2020 \(H.R. 2\)](#)

Invests \$130 billion targeted at high-poverty schools with facilities that endanger the health and safety of students and educators, creating 1.9 million jobs.

### [STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY ACT \(H.R. 2639\)](#)

Supports districts in developing, implementing, or expanding voluntary initiatives to increase school diversity.

### [EQUITY AND INCLUSION ENFORCEMENT ACT \(H.R. 2574\)](#)

Restores the right of students and parents to hold school districts and states accountable for discriminatory education policies.

## BILLS ADVANCED OUT OF COMMITTEE

### [SCHOOL SHOOTING SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS ACT \(H.R. 4301\)](#)

Creates a federal definition for mass shootings and school shootings and collects data to help prevent them.

### [COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY ACT \(H.R. 4674\)](#)

Comprehensive overhaul of higher education that will mean students can spend less and earn more.

# HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

In the 116th Congress, the Committee advanced legislation to protect and expand access to affordable health care.



## BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSE

### [UNDO THE “SHORT-TERM, LIMITED DURATION INSURANCE” RULE \(H.R. 1010\)](#)

Protects consumers from junk health plans by undoing the Trump administration’s “Short-Term, Limited Duration Insurance” rule.

### [STRONGER CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT \(CAPTA\) \(H.R. 2480\)](#)

Strengthens federal tools to address the rising rates of child abuse and neglect.

### [DIGNITY IN AGING ACT \(H.R. 4334\)](#)

Reauthorizes the Older Americans Act and helps older Americans live independently and with dignity.

### [ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS LOWER DRUG COSTS NOW ACT \(H.R. 3\)](#)

Reduces out-of-pocket costs for consumers, lowers drug prices, and increases transparency.

### [THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ENHANCEMENT ACT \(H.R. 1425\)](#)

A legislative package that will provide much needed relief by making health care and prescription drugs more affordable.

## BILLS ADVANCED OUT OF COMMITTEE

### [RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH AND TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ACT OF 2019 \(H.R. 5191\)](#)

A bipartisan bill that will help states combat youth homelessness by expanding and enhancing the quality of services provided to young people.

### [THE BAN SURPRISE BILLING ACT \(H.R.5800\)](#)

A bipartisan bill that provides important consumer protections for Americans who receive health care coverage through their employer and for those enrolled in the individual market.

# LABOR

In the 116th Congress, the Committee advanced historic legislation to raise the minimum wage, prevent workplace discrimination, and strengthen workers' rights to organize and negotiate for better wages, benefits, and working conditions.

## BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSE

### [PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT \(H.R. 7\)](#)

Addresses pay inequity by holding companies accountable for gender-based wage disparities, strengthening the Equal Pay Act of 1963, and protecting the rights of workers to challenge systemic pay discrimination.

### [RAISE THE WAGE ACT \(H.R. 582\)](#)

Gradually increases the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 by 2025, giving up to 33 million workers a raise and lifting at least 1.3 million Americans out of poverty.

### [REHABILITATION FOR MULTIEMPLOYER PENSIONS \(BUTCH LEWIS\) ACT \(H.R. 397\)](#)

Prevents the imminent collapse of the multiemployer pension system while protecting retirees' benefits and saving taxpayers billions of dollars.

### [WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION FOR HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS ACT \(H.R. 1309\)](#)

Provides health and social service workers the workplace protections they deserve.

### [PROTECTING OLDER WORKERS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION ACT \(H.R. 1230\)](#)

Restores workplace protections for older workers.

### [PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE \(PRO\) ACT \(HR. 2474\)](#)

Protects workers' right to organize and bargain for higher pay, better benefits, and safer working conditions.

### [PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT \(H.R. 2694\)](#)

A bipartisan proposal to guarantee basic workplace protections for pregnant workers.

## BILLS ADVANCED OUT OF COMMITTEE

### [NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP ACT OF 2020 \(H.R. 8294\)](#)

Invests more than \$3.5 billion over 5 years in expanding opportunities and access to Registered Apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeships.



# COVID-19



As a result of the Committee's work, Congress has passed COVID-19 relief legislation that provides billions in emergency education funding for students, educators, schools, and institutions across the country. Congress also took steps to prevent children from going hungry during this public health crisis by giving states and schools the flexibility and funding they need to provide students access to nutritious meals. We continue to fight for additional relief for state and local funding to prevent deep cuts to education and avert mass layoffs.

To protect workers' paychecks, Congress extended paid sick leave to as many as 87 million workers. We continue to push for an enforceable workplace safety standard for all workers.

To strengthen access to affordable health care, Congress secured cost-free coverage for COVID-19 testing and any future vaccines. We continue to work to extend this coverage to all coronavirus-related treatment so that victims facing the virus are not hit with costly medical bills afterward.

## **[FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT \(H.R. 6201\)](#)**

A COVID-19 pandemic relief legislative package signed into law on March 18, 2020.

## **[TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORKERS AND FAMILIES ACT \(H.R. 6379\)](#)**

A COVID-19 pandemic relief legislative package introduced on March 23, 2020.

## **[CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY \(CARES\) ACT \(H.R. 748\)](#)**

A COVID-19 pandemic relief legislative package signed into law on March 27, 2020.

## **[HEROES ACT \(H.R. 6800\)](#)**

A COVID-19 pandemic relief legislative package passed by the House on May 15, 2020.

## **[CHILD CARE IS ESSENTIAL ACT \(H.R. 7027\)](#)**

Addresses the problems child care providers have in staying open and covering their increased operating costs with limited revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **[UPDATED HEROES ACT \(H.R. 8406\)](#)**

An updated COVID-19 pandemic relief legislative package passed by the House on October 1, 2020.

# OVERSIGHT IN ACTION

Throughout the 116th Congress, the Committee conducted rigorous oversight that produced meaningful results on behalf of the American people, despite the administration's repeated attempts to evade responsibility and obfuscate the truth.



## EDUCATION

- Held Department of Education Secretary DeVos accountable for her Department's failure to properly implement the [Borrower Defense](#) rule and the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#).
- Successfully pressured the Department of Education to [reinstate its acting inspector general](#) after attempting to replace the independent watchdog with a senior official from within the Department.
- Opposed the Education Department's [equitable services rule](#), which would have improperly distributed COVID-19 relief funding from high-poverty public schools toward services for students in private schools, regardless of their wealth. Three separate federal courts also found the Department's rule was unlawful. Eventually, the Department conceded and withdrew the rule.
- Pushed back on the Department's attempts to [limit student eligibility for CARES Act funding under Title IV](#) – a move that would exclude some of our most vulnerable students without the aid they need. A federal court also found this rule to be unlawful and issued an injunction.
- Released a [Committee report](#) outlining how a Department of Education official aided Dream Center Holdings, a for-profit higher education company, in misleading thousands of students.

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Persuaded [the Department of Agriculture to publicly admit](#) that its proposal to cut SNAP benefits for low-income families would jeopardize access to free school meals for nearly 1 million children.
- Pressured [the Department of Agriculture to extend critical waivers](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure kids maintain access to school meals during the 2020-2021 school year.

## LABOR

- Successfully pressured the Department of Labor [to abandon its proposal to rollback child labor protections](#) as well as its plan [to close job corps facilities](#).
- Successfully pressured the Department of Labor to reverse its plans to [rollback safety standards](#) that protect construction and shipyard workers from exposure to beryllium, a toxic, carcinogenic element.
- Repeatedly pressed the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) to establish an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) to protect workers from COVID-19 while on the job.
- Opposed the Department of Labor's interpretative rule narrowing joint employment liability under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The FLSA holds all employers accountable for basic labor standards, such as minimum wage, overtime, and child labor restrictions. In September 2020, a federal judge [invalidated](#) the rule.
- [Demanded](#) answers from the Trump administration for watering down critical workplace safety guidance for a South Dakota meatpacking plant that experienced one of the largest COVID-19 outbreaks in the country.



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committee's reports published during the 116th Congress, address legislative and other policy issues, investigations, and internal committee matters.

## [DON'T STOP BELIEVIN' \(IN THE VALUE OF A COLLEGE DEGREE\)](#)

Reveals that a college degree is still well worth the cost.

## [INVESTING IN ECONOMIC MOBILITY: THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF HBCUS, TCUS, AND MSIS IN CLOSING RACIAL AND WEALTH GAPS IN HIGHER EDUCATION](#)

Highlights the chronic underfunding of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).

## [BROKEN PROMISES: HOW THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FAILED AMERICA'S PUBLIC SERVANTS](#)

Reveals that the Education Department ignored early warnings from internal staff that could have prevented the disastrous implementation of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program.

## [DELAYED AND DENIED: BORROWER DEFENSE RELIEF UNDER THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION](#)

Describes how the Education Department has abandoned hundreds of thousands of borrowers defrauded by predatory institutions.

## [SHATTERED DREAMS: EXAMINING THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ROLE IN THE MIS-CONDUCT OF DREAM CENTER EDUCATION HOLDINGS](#)

Reveals that a high-ranking official at the Department of Education quietly worked on behalf of a for-profit higher education company that was actively defrauding students and taxpayers.

