COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & LABOR

2021

YEAR IN REVIEW

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Committee on Education and Labor's 2021

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Throughout the first session of the 117th Congress, the House Education and Labor Committee has advanced legislation that meets the needs of students, families, workers, and our economy.

3

Bills signed by President Biden

BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

American Rescue Plan Act (H.R. 1319)
Secured urgent relief for students, schools, and child care providers protected the health of families and communities, and supported America's workers and retirees.

The Congressional Review Act Resolution of Disapproval of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Conciliation Rule (S.J. Res 13)
Repealed a Trump-era rule that undermined civil rights enforcement.

Consider Teachers Act (S. 848)
Fixed a broken system that improperly burdened teachers with loans.

13

Bills passed through House

BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSE

National Apprenticeship Act (H.R. 447)
Creates nearly one million new Registered Apprenticeship, youth apprenticeship, and pre-apprenticeship positions to help Americans workers access in-demand jobs across a wide range of industries.

Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (H.R. 485)
Addresses the recent rise in child abuse and neglect by funding networks of prevention services designed to strengthen families and improve the quality of child protective services.

16

Bills advanced through Committee

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.

Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act (H.R. 2474)
Protects workers' right to organize and bargain for higher pay, better benefits, and safer working conditions.

Committee on Education and Labor's 2021

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

continued:

BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSE

Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (H.R. 2694)
Establishes a pregnant worker's clear-cut right to reasonable accommodations, provided they do not impose an undue burden on their employer.

Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act (H.R. 1230)
Restores legal protections for older workers so they can hold employers accountable for age discrimination.

Protect Older Job Applicants Act (H.R. 3992)
Clarifies that older job applicants are protected from age discrimination under federal law.

Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R. 1195)
Provides health and social service workers the workplace protections they deserve.

Family Violence Prevention Services Improvement Act (H.R. 2119)
Enhances and refocuses federal investment to prevent intimate partner violence and support survivors.

Providing Urgent Maternal Protections for Nursing Mothers (H.R. 3110)
Expands and strengthens workplace protections for nursing mothers so they have the time and privacy to pump at work.

Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376)
Lowers costs for nearly every family, creates millions of good-paying jobs, and sets a strong foundation for America's future.

ADDITIONAL BILLS ADVANCED THROUGH COMMITTEE

Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act (H.R. 2574)
Restores the right of students and parents to hold schools accountable for discrimination in education.

Strength in Diversity Act (H.R. 2639)
Supports districts in developing, implementing, or expanding voluntary initiatives to increase diversity in schools.

Retirement Improvement and Savings Enhancement Act (H.R. 5891)
Makes an array of bipartisan and commonsense improvements to ensure that the retirement system better serves workers, retirees, and employers.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

AMERICANS NEEDED URGENT RELIEF DURING THE PANDEMIC. DEMOCRATS DELIVERED.

The American people needed and deserved a coordinated, fully funded, government response to keep them and their loved ones safe from the coronavirus pandemic.

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act into law. The Committee's portion of the bill included:

- The largest one-time federal investment in K-12 education in history to help schools reopen safely, stay open safely, and make up for lost time in the classroom
- Relief funding to help struggling institutions of higher education and prevent hunger, homelessness, and other hardships
- A significant investment to rescue the child care system from the brink of collapse
- Fully subsidized health care coverage for workers and families who lost their jobs
- Expanded child nutrition programs to address the tragic pandemic-fueled surge in child hunger
- Emergency funding for vital programs that prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect, support survivors of domestic violence, and help address the needs of older Americans
- Delivered a solution to the multiemployer pension crisis that protected workers, retirees, businesses and communities

Rep. Haley Stevens (MI-11)

Rep. Jahana Hayes (CT-05)

Rep. Susan Wild (PA-07)

BUILD BACK BETTER

On November 19, 2021, House Democrats passed the Build Back Better Act. The investments in the Committee on Education and Labor's portion of the proposal will confront the challenges facing families across the country.

Lower the Cost of Child Care
Makes a historic investment to lower the cost of child care for working families, expand the availability of high-quality child care, and raise wages for child care workers.

Secure Universal Preschool for 3- and 4-Year-Olds
Provides free, universal preschool for three- and four-year olds, which will help prepare as many as 6 million children for happier, healthier, and more productive lives.

Lower the Cost of Prescription Drugs
Allows the government to negotiate prescription drug prices in Medicare and protects workers and businesses from price-gouging.

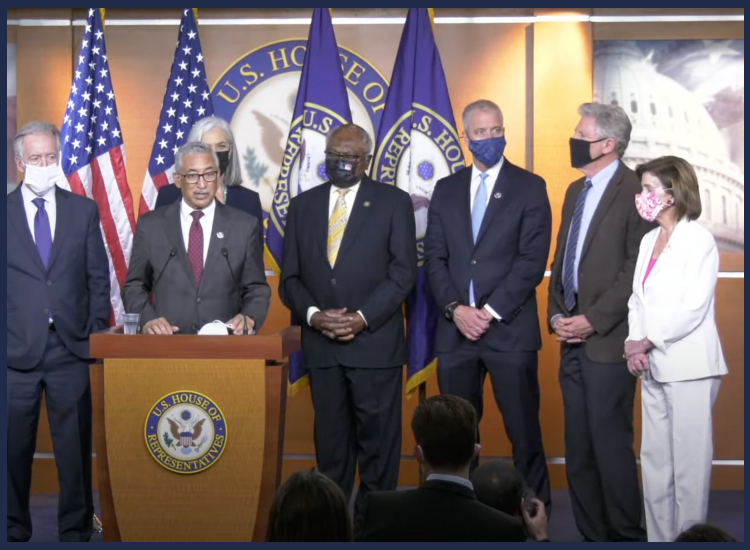
Lower the Cost of Higher Education
Increases the value of Pell Grants and invests in Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions.

Secure Good-Paying Jobs
Invests $20 billion in proven job-training programs, like Registered Apprenticeships, to help workers secure good-paying jobs.

Strengthen Penalties for Labor Violations
Protects workers from workplace safety, wage and hour, and labor law violations by strengthening enforcement and increasing penalties for companies that break the law.

Help to Prevent Child Hunger
Allows nearly 9 million more children to receive free school meals by expanding eligibility, eliminating paperwork, and helping more children get healthy meals over the summer.

Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)



Chairman Scott (VA-03) speaks at a press conference following the House passage of the Build Back Better Act.

In 2021, the Committee on Education and Labor held

37 HEARINGS

examining important issues, such as:

Full Committee

Chairman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

- Building Back Better from the pandemic
- Strengthening oversight of for-profit colleges
- Highlighting the Biden agenda for students, workers, and families

Civil Rights & Human Services

Chair Suzanne Bonamici

- Preventing domestic violence and supporting survivors
- Implementing vaccine requirements
- Ending child hunger through proven programs

Workforce Protections

Chairwoman Alma Adams

- Protecting workers from COVID-19
- Confronting workplace discrimination
- Supporting injured workers and their families

Higher Education & Workforce Investment

Chairwoman Frederica Wilson

- Increasing enrollment of Pell students at public institutions
- Helping workers secure good-paying jobs
- Review the policies and priorities of the Office of Federal Student Aid

Early Childhood, Elementary & Secondary Education

Chairman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

- Reopening schools safely and making up for lost classroom time
- Distrubting of COVID-19 funds
- Supporting underserved students

Health, Employment, Labor & Pensions

Chairman Mark DeSaulnier

- Expanding access to mental health care
- Lowering prescription drug costs
- Helping workers save for a secure retirement

Committee on Education and Labor's 2021

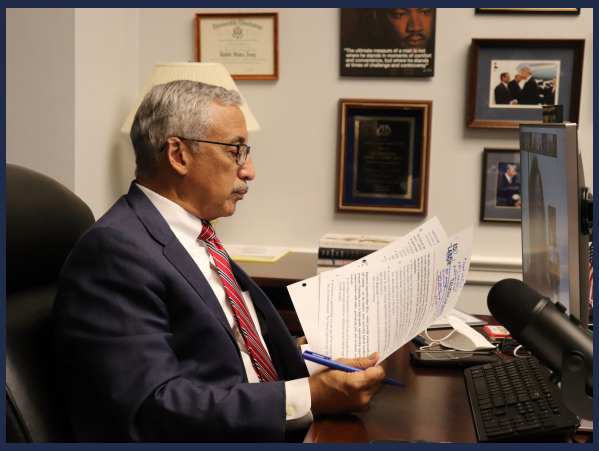
OVERSIGHT HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past year, the Committee has continued to conduct rigorous oversight on behalf of students, families, and workers.

Protecting workers from COVID-19:
Chairman Scott and Workplace Protections Subcommittee Chairwoman Adams consistently pushed the administration to adopt an enforceable emergency workplace safety standard to protect workers and their families from COVID-19.

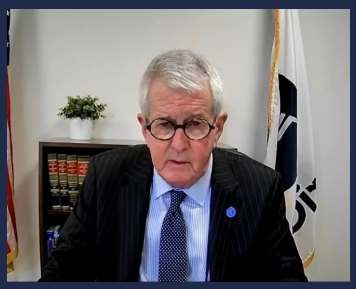
Protecting Americans' civil rights:
After repeated advocacy from Chairman Scott and other Committee Members, the Biden Administration reversed a Trump-era policy that gave taxpayer-funded organizations broad authority to engage in discrimination under the guise of religious liberty.

Protecting students and taxpayers from predatory for-profit colleges:
The Committee has advocated for the Administration to crackdown on for-profit colleges that defraud students and taxpayers. This includes holding for-profit executives personally liable for fraud and preventing for-profits from transitioning to non-profits in order to evade oversight.



Chairman Bobby Scott (VA-03)

Subcommittee Chair Alma Adams (NC-12)



Examining Agency Priorities and Policies:
The Committee held hearings with Administration officials to discuss their priorities and ensure they are fulfilling the Administration's duty to improve the lives of students, workers, and families.

Top left: Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Top right: Miguel Cardona, Secretary of Education
Bottom left: Marty Walsh, Secretary of Labor
Bottom right: Malcom Coles, Acting CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

VICE CHAIR JAMAAL BOWMAN, ED.D.

New York 16
Congressional District

Rep. Bowman is dedicated to passing visionary policy that puts the needs of children and their families first while providing economic and racial justice for all people living in America.

REP. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

Arizona 3
Congressional District

Rep. Grijalva is driven by ensuring a livable wage for American workers and always fighting for underrepresented voices.

REP. JOE COURTNEY

Connecticut 2
Congressional District

Rep. Courtney's focus is helping grow America's workforce, supporting America's public schools, providing support for child care and early education, and more.

REP. MARK TAKANO

California 41
Congressional District

Rep. Takano is committed to supporting America's students, creating a workforce where all Americans can thrive, and addressing concerns facing veterans.

REP. DONALD NORCROSS

New Jersey 1
Congressional District

Rep. Norcross is dedicated to raising wages, rebuilding the economy, and ensuring access to a high-quality education.

REP. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

Washington 7
Congressional District

Rep. Jayapal is committed to ensuring that Congress delivers long-overdue investments in working people, families, and communities across America.

REP. JOSEPH MORELLE

New York 25
Congressional District

Rep. Morelle has worked diligently to improve and expand access to health care for all people, grow our economy, and protect the communities we live in.

REP. SUSAN WILD

Pennsylvania 7
Congressional District

Rep. Wild is fighting for quality, affordable health care for all, an economy that benefits every American, and is reforming our political system to return government to the people.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

REP. LUCY MCBATH

Georgia 6
Congressional District

Rep. McBath is dedicated to ending gun violence, rebuilding our economy, protecting and serving our nation's veterans, and lowering the cost of health care and prescription drugs.

REP. JAHANA HAYES

Connecticut 5
Congressional District

Rep. Hayes areas of legislative focus are equitable access to quality education, affordable health care, labor, and nutrition programs.

REP. ANDY LEVIN

Michigan 9
Congressional District

Rep. Levin is a union organizer, human rights activist, workforce policy expert and green energy entrepreneur, fighting for an equitable and inclusive future for all people.

REP. ILHAN OMAR

Minnesota 5
Congressional District

Rep. Omar is dedicated to investing in education and freeing students from the shackles of debt, ensuring a fair wage for a hard day's work and tackling the existential threat of climate change.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

REP. HALEY STEVENS

Michigan 11
Congressional District

Rep. Stevens works to promote manufacturing, expand educational opportunity, stand up for workers' rights, and increase investment in critical research and development.

REP. TERESA LEGER FERNÁNDEZ

New Mexico 3
Congressional District

Rep. Leger Fernández promotes school infrastructure, increasing broadband connectivity, and creating jobs for all working families.

REP. MONDAIRE JONES

New York 17
Congressional District

Rep. Jones is fighting for COVID-19 relief, a living wage for all and updates to America's health care system to ensure a more fair and equitable country.

REP. KATHY MANNING

North Carolina 6
Congressional District

Rep. Manning is a strong advocate for affordable health care and lowering prescription drug prices, a quality education for every student, economic opportunity and equal justice for all.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

REP. FRANK J. MRVAN

Indiana 1
Congressional District

Rep. Mrvan is dedicated to creating good-paying high-quality jobs for working families, and building an economy that works for everyone.

REP. MARK POCAN

Wisconsin 2
Congressional District

Rep. Pocan is committed to using his life experience to fight for policies that promote economic and social justice and support American families.

REP. JOAQUIN CASTRO

Texas 20
Congressional District

Rep. Castro is dedicated to investing in education to build what he calls "Infrastructure of Opportunity" so future generations have the chance to pursue the American Dream.

REP. MIKIE SHERRILL

New Jersey 11
Congressional District

Rep. Sherrill is an advocate for ensuring all Americans have access to affordable child care and rebuilding the economy after the coronavirus pandemic.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

REP. JOHN YARMUTH

Kentucky 3
Congressional District

Rep. Yarmuth has been a leader in improving education, expanding access to affordable health care, and enacting the American Rescue Plan to help Americans recover from the pandemic.

REP. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

New York 13
Congressional District

Rep. Espaillat has been a champion of ensuring affordable housing, equity in schools, immigration reform and transformative investments to spur economic development, job creation, support of small businesses and environmental protections.

REP. KWEISI MFUME

Maryland 7
Congressional District

Rep. Mfume advocates for education, labor and civil rights legislation to ensure every American is afforded the opportunity and respect they deserve.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ED & LABOR

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