

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 16, 2021

MINORITY VIEWS ON SUBTITLE G. BUDGET RECONCILIATION LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO PROMOTING ECONOMIC SECURITY

In light of the new administration's call for unity, it is unfortunate that our colleagues chose to reject Republican input and pursue partisan tax priorities under the guise of COVID-19 response. We should unite around the goals of crushing the virus, reopening Main Street safely, getting unemployed Americans back to work, and targeting aid to American families most in need.

Instead, the Democrats produced legislation that lacks meaningful investment in vaccines or America's medical supply chains, offers nothing to help Main Street reopen, and fails to get unemployed workers off the sidelines. In fact, this legislative package targets small business with an expensive minimum wage mandate, and the new administration has already issued job-crushing edicts. These actions will only deepen and prolong our unemployment crisis.

It should be no surprise that the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office reported last week that we will not return to our pre-pandemic labor market strength—which was built on Republican tax and regulatory policies—for more than a decade.

This subtitle also contains three provisions expanding the current-law entitlement for the subsidized purchase of private health insurance. Together, these provisions increase the deficit by \$45 billion, create a staggering fiscal cliff in 2022, disincentivize work, and most critically, do nothing to lower the cost of health care. The cost of health care and health insurance is an issue that Congress can and should tackle on a bipartisan basis. However, this bill uses the COVID-19 pandemic as a trojan horse to push for an incredibly costly campaign to expand a failed health care law while doing nothing to truly lower the cost of care.


Trying to be constructive, we offered amendments to improve this legislation. At every turn, we were rebuffed by our colleagues on the other side, who defeated our efforts on technicalities or with prearranged party-line votes.

Here are some of the common-sense amendments that were opposed by our colleagues:

- Economic impact payments to families who—through no fault of their own—are losing their livelihoods due to unilateral actions by the Biden administration.
- Aid to small businesses to help them keep their doors open and their employees and customers safe.
- Protection for small businesses and families from Democrats' costly minimum wage mandate, which the Congressional Budget Office says will result in 1.4 million jobs lost.
- Permanent extension of the \$2,000 per child tax credit, to prevent it from being slashed in half in coming years.

- Measure to prevent abuse of the new, expanded refundable credits proposed by the Democrats.
- Targeted economic impact payments to families who have experienced real economic harm during the pandemic.
- Incentives for innovative American companies to find and develop cures and therapies to treat and defeat infectious diseases like COVID-19.
- Hiring incentives for employers, and especially small businesses, to bring long-term unemployed Americans back into the workforce.
- Help for businesses that reopen while keeping their workers and customers safe.
- Help for families with the costs of educating their children, in light of school closures and the challenges of remote learning.
- Measures to lower the cost of health care by empowering consumers to save more and shop for services, replacing the Democrats' plan to chase ever-increasing health care costs with ever-increasing subsidies.
- Better customer assistance by the IRS for Americans who are still waiting for their economic impact payments.
- Assistance to victims of domestic violence in accessing their economic impact payments without having to deal directly with their abuser.

In Democrats' rush to spend nearly \$2 trillion, they missed a major opportunity to enact bipartisan solutions to help Americans return to work, reopen our economy safely, and ensure that another pandemic never sets our country back like this again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KEVIN BRADY", written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Brady
Republican Leader
Committee on Ways and Means