

AUTHORIZING

Critical Democratic Priorities in the Year-End Funding Package



Makes Health Care More Affordable

- Holds patients harmless from surprise medical bills, by ensuring they are only responsible for their in-network cost-sharing amounts, including deductibles, in both emergency situations and certain non-emergency situations where they can't choose an in-network provider.
- Extends critical public health programs, including Community Health Centers, National Health Service Corps, Teaching Health Centers, and Special Diabetes Programs.

Expands Access to Higher Education

- Expands the Pell Grant program by the largest amount in a decade, including making it easier for students to predict their eligibility and providing incarcerated students access to Pell Grants.
- Makes it easier for students to apply – and qualify – for federal student aid by streamlining the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and expanding outreach and awareness.
- Discharges loans made to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) under the HBCU Capital Financing Loan program, providing \$1.34 billion in relief.

Utilizes The Tax Code to Support Working Families

- Extends, expands, and significantly improves the Employee Retention Tax Credit to help keep employees on payroll, and connected with their jobs.
- Continues crucial investments in green energy and energy efficiency by extending the Investment Tax Credit (ITC), Production Credit (PTC), and other tax incentives designed to incentivize the deployment of residential green energy and energy efficiency commercial buildings.
- Allows families who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) flexibility in determining these credits, putting more money in the pockets of working families.
- Jumpstarts and guarantees a pipeline of affordable housing projects by establishing a four percent minimum credit rate for the low-income housing tax credit.

Combats Climate Change

- Phases down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by 85 percent over 15 years, helping the United States to lead the world in avoiding up to 0.5° Celsius of warming.
- Promotes research on renewable energy technologies like solar, wind, geothermal, and water power through the Department of Energy.
- Extends the popular Weatherization Assistance Program for low-income energy efficiency retrofits, which will result in approximately 300,000 units receiving weatherization services.
- Reforms the Department of Energy's long-dormant Title XVII Loan program to unlock \$23.9 billion in existing loan guarantee authority for projects that deploy innovative emission-reducing technologies and pay prevailing wages for workers.

Improves Public Safety

- Strengthens the Federal Aviation Administration's aircraft certification process to promote safety.
- Enhances pipeline safety by encouraging deployment of new technology, improvements to LNG facilities and gas distribution systems, and resources for more pipeline inspectors.