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COVID-19 Legislative Update

February 1, 2021

The COVID-19 Updates will resume on a weekly cadence, going out every Monday evening. For past updates, click [here](#). For updates before May 8, click [here](#). If you believe you have been accidentally unsubscribed, you can re-subscribe [here](#).

2.1.2021. COVID-19 Legislative Update

Legislation

Supplemental V

Timeline/Process: Earlier today, President Biden met with a group of Republican senators to discuss the possibility of a bipartisan COVID-19 relief package. The group sent a [letter](#) yesterday seeking a meeting and outlining a \$618 billion framework for relief. Unclear if progress was made towards an agreement, but it was the first conversation Republicans had with President Biden since he released his \$1.9 trillion proposal. **While bipartisan conversations will likely continue between Republicans and the White House, Congressional Democrats are not waiting to move forward on passing a package close to Biden's [American Rescue plan](#) through reconciliation.**

Tomorrow, the House Rules Committee will vote on a Budget Resolution that will move to the floor, with votes possible on the Senate floor as soon as Thursday evening. If there are changes in the Senate, members could stay through the weekend. Passing the Resolution is the first step toward passing a reconciliation bill. Democrats hope that committees will begin marking up their sections of the bill next week, allowing for Budget Committee action the following week, and votes on the House floor the week of Feb. 22. **The goal is to pass the package before unemployment insurance expires on March 14.**

Process: If the next package ends up going through reconciliation, its appropriations provisions will be drafted by authorizing committees (unlike previous COVID-19 supplementals) – because reconciliation requires only certain types of spending. The appropriations committees will be coordinating closely with the authorizing committees that

Procedurally, **we could see another reconciliation package begin immediately after this one is passed.** The Biden team may release a proposal on what that next package will look like in the coming weeks, likely focused on infrastructure. Democratic leadership has been discussing moving one as soon as March or April, though the logistics and staff bandwidth on that timeline could be difficult. A third reconciliation package would not be procedurally feasible until FY22 begins in October.

Politics: Though President Biden has emphasized bipartisanship, **some Democrats have indicated there is very little appetite to agree to a smaller package than what Biden laid out.** Others have pointed out that Democrats could split the package in two – a smaller bipartisan package and a reconciliation package with Democratic priorities that don't make it into the former – but yesterday the White House has [indicated](#) they are not interested in bifurcating the bill. It's clear though, Democrats are not going to wait for a bipartisan deal to come together before moving forward.

Policy: On Sunday, a group of 10 Republican Senators sent a [letter](#) to President Biden, indicating they had put together a [framework](#) and requested to meet and discuss it. The framework was released earlier today and the topline is around \$618 billion. Highlights below:

- \$160 billion for **public health** response to the pandemic, including
 - \$20 billion for vaccine distribution,
 - \$50 billion for testing/tracing, and
 - \$30 billion for provider relief fund;
- Extending **unemployment insurance** for three months,
- \$20 billion for childcare,
- \$20 billion for K-12 **school reopening**,
- \$50 billion for PPP and EIDL,
- \$1,000 stimulus checks with \$40k/yr phase out (\$80k/yr for joint filers),
- \$5 billion for nutrition assistance, and
- \$4 billion for mental health and substance abuse support.

On January 14, President-elect Biden released the America Rescue Plan. Proposal [here](#). The topline is around \$1.9 trillion. Highlights below:

- **\$350 billion for state, local, and territorial governments;**
- **\$400/week unemployment insurance** through September 2021, with health and economic triggers;
- \$15 billion for **small business grants**, \$35 billion for small business loans;
- \$1 trillion for **direct stimulus payments**, \$1,400 for individuals with additional money for children, including adult dependents;
- \$20 billion for **vaccination distribution**, \$50 billion for **testing expansion**;
- Increase in ACA subsidies and cap premiums at 8.5 percent of income, temporary **subsidy of COBRA** continuation coverage for those who have lost their job-based

- \$20 billion for **tribal governments** to help them respond to the pandemic in Indian Country;
- \$25 billion for **rental assistance** and eviction moratorium through September 2021;
- \$5 billion for emergency utility assistance, \$5 billion for emergency assistance to those at risk or experiencing homelessness;
- **Increases the Child Tax Credit to \$3,000/year per child**, fully refundable;
- Extends the 15 percent increase in monthly SNAP benefits;
- 14 weeks for paid sick and family leave;
- Instituting a **\$15 minimum wage**, as well as the abolishment of tipped minimum wage and sub-minimum wage for people with disabilities;
- \$20 billion for targeted support of **public transit** agencies;
- Over **\$10 billion for cybersecurity and information technology** improvements, including \$9 billion for the Technology Modernization Fund.

Passed Legislation

Moving forward, this section will only include new information and guidance. For past information and guidance and passed legislation, please refer to the [archives](#). For a summary of all supplementals, please see here.

New Implementation Information and Guidance

- There has been no new information and guidance since the previous update.

Members of Congress in Quarantine or Treatment

New additions in bold. As of January 15, the below list only includes members of the 117th Congress and thus is not cumulative across Congresses.

Tested Positive (2): **Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA), Rep. Ron Wright (R-TX)**

Recovered from COVID-19 (69): Rep. Ben McAdams (D-UT), Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Rep. Joe Cunningham (D-SC), Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA), Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY), Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL), Rep. Tom Rice (R-SC), Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA), Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX), Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL), Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA), Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon (R-Puerto Rico at large), Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT), Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC), Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA), Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL), Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI), Rep. Drew Ferguson (R-GA), Rep. Don Young (R-AK), Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL), Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA), Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R-GA), Rep. Brian Steil (R-WI), Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT), Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-TX), Rep. Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV), Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA), Rep. Ted Budd (R-NC), Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL), Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA), Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-GA), Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA), Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC), Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL), Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-LA), Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA), Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI), **Rep. Maria Salazar (R-FL), Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX), Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX)**,

Jayapal (D-WA), Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL), Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-IL), Rep. Lou Correa (D-CA),

Currently Self-Quarantined (1): Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)

Completed Quarantine (50): Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC), Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS), Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ), Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL), Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO), Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA), Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY), Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Rep. Vincente Gonzalez (D-TX), Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ), Rep. Anthony Brindisi (D-NY), Rep. David Price (D-NC), Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO), Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY), Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA), Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA), Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL), Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ), Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT), Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA), Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA), Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX), Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ), Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX), Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA), Rep. Jody Hice (R-GA), Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE), Sen. James Lankford (R-OK), Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI), Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)



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