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COVID-19 Legislative Update

February 16, 2021

COVID-19 Legislative Updates are published every Monday evening (except federal holidays, when we publish on Tuesdays). 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](#).

2.16.2021. COVID-19 Legislative Update

Legislation

Supplemental V

Timeline/Process: Last week, House Committees released and marked up their sections of the reconciliation package. On Thursday, the House Budget Committee will markup the package, but the priority is putting all the pieces together, not altering provisions. Any changes to the package will be made as it goes through Rules Committee before hitting the floor. The House is aiming for a **floor vote on the full package at the end of next week, with votes possibly going into the weekend**. The hope is to have a vote on the Senate floor the week of March 1. It's expected that the Senate will make changes to the bill and will require the House to revote before it goes to President Biden. With the Senate focused on impeachment and partisans tensions high, bipartisan conversations have fallen off. It's looking increasingly likely that the next COVID bill will be a fully partisan bill (the first partisan COVID bill, if passed).

Politics: After rumors last week that House leadership was considering removing \$15 minimum wage provisions from the package, Speaker Pelosi [rebutted](#) those rumors in a press conference last Thursday, saying the bill the House sends to the Senate will have \$15 minimum wage included.

There's still some hesitancy around certain pieces of the bill being ruled germane under the Byrd Rule. While Budget Chairman Bernie Sanders has been pushing the argument that the \$15 minimum wage would have more budgetary effects than past

parliamentarian *can* be overruled with 51 one votes, though it is unclear if that will be necessary or possible. Other budget experts have seemed hesitant to see appropriations (discretionary spending) pass through the reconciliation process. **There's still significant pieces of the package that might have to come out** in the Senate if deemed noncompliant with the Byrd Rule.

Policy: House committees marked up their sections of the bill last week. See below for highlights and links to summaries, one pagers, and text.

Ways and Means: press release [here](#) (with links to text and section by section summaries), Joint Committee on Taxation summary [here](#)

- \$1,400 stimulus checks, with same income phase out as the most recent package (\$75 per year for single filers, \$150,000 per year for married couples) ([Subtitle G](#)).
- \$400/week federal unemployment insurance through August 29, 2021 ([Subtitle A](#));
- Extends FFCRA unemployment provisions ([Subtitle A](#)).
- Expands eligibility and increases credit for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit (CTC) to \$3,000 per child, and allows families to claim up to half their child care expenses in the Child and Dependent Tax Credit (CDCTC) ([Subtitle G](#)).
- Extension of the employee retention credit ([Subtitle G](#)).
- Exempts EIDL grants and Restaurant Revitalization Grants from tax ([Subtitle G](#)).
- Increases ACA subsidies and caps premiums at 8.5 percent of income, temporary subsidy of COBRA continuation coverage for those who have lost their job-based insurance ([Subtitle F](#)).

Energy and Commerce: more details specific to health response funding are [here](#), section by section in the committee memo [here](#), public health text [here](#), Medicaid section text [here](#), CHIP section text [here](#), other provisions text [here](#)

- \$7.5 billion for vaccine distribution, and \$5.2 billion for vaccine supply chain.
- \$50 billion for testing expansion, including tracing, mutation identifications, investments in data infrastructure, and global health.
- \$8 billion for investments in the public health workforce.
- \$9 billion for public health investments like CHCs, Nurse Corps Loan Repayment, and HHS to purchase testing and PPE.
- \$6 billion for the Indian Health Service and tribal health programs.
- \$4 billion for mental health and substance abuse, including \$3.5 billion for SAMHSA, public awareness campaigns, block grant and community-based grants, youth mental health services, and behavioral health workforce training.
- Requires Medicaid coverage and CHIP coverage of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, matched at 100 FMAP.
- Provides incentive for states to expand Medicaid by increasing FMAP by 5 percent for two years.
- Creates \$7.6 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund focused on distance learning.

- \$350 billion for state, local, territorial, and tribal governments, with nearly \$200 billion dedicated for states and DC, \$130 billion for local governments, \$20 billion for tribes, and \$4.5 billion for territories.
- Money can be used to offset lost revenue.

Education and Labor: press release [here](#), fact sheet [here](#), section by section [here](#), text [here](#)

- \$128.5 billion in grants for elementary and secondary school reopening and stabilization.
- \$39.6 billion for higher education emergency relief fund.
- Increases the federal minimum wage to \$15/hr by 2025, phases out the tipped minimum wage by 2027, phases out and eliminated sub-minimum wage.
- \$150 million for worker protection (\$75 million for OSHA).
- \$14.9 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDGB) program.
- Extends the 15 percent increase in monthly SNAP benefits.

Small Business: committee print [here](#), text [here](#)

- Expands eligibility for Paycheck Protection Program loans and second-draw loans.
- \$15 billion for EIDL grants.
- \$25 billion for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, with women- and minority-owned restaurants prioritized.

Transportation and Infrastructure: text [here](#)

- \$50 billion for FEMA.
- Assistance for funeral-related expenses to individuals and households affected.
- \$30 billion for targeted support of public transit agencies.
- \$8 billions for airport assistance.
- \$3 billion for airline payroll support, with certain requirements for airlines to receive funding.

Financial Services: committee print [here](#), section by section in the committee memo [here](#), text [here](#)

- \$10 billion for the Defense Production Act.
- At least \$19 billion for emergency rental assistance, \$5 billion for emergency assistance to those at risk or experiencing homelessness.
- Almost \$10 billion for Homeowner Assistance Fund, which includes emergency utility assistance.

Agriculture: text [here](#)

Veterans Affairs: text [here](#), section by section [here](#)

Passed Legislation

summary of all the supplementals that have been passed, please see [here](#).

New Implementation Information and Guidance

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

Members of Congress Affected by COVID-19

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 Recently (0):

Died from COVID-19 (1): Rep. Ron Wright (R-TX)

Recovered from COVID-19 (68): Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), 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), 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. Rick Larsen (D-WA), Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI), Rep. Maria Salazar (R-FL), Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX), Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX), Rep. Michelle Steel (R-CA), Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Rep. Jake LaTurner (R-KS), Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ), Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL), Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY), Rep. Lou Correa (D-CA), Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA), **Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA), Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA)**

Currently Self-Quarantined (0):

Completed Quarantine (52): 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



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