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## COVID-19 Legislative Update

*February 22, 2021*

COVID-19 Legislative Updates are published every Monday evening. For past updates, click [here](#). For updates before May 8, 2020 click [here](#). If you believe you have been accidentally unsubscribed, you can re-subscribe [here](#).

### **2.22.2021. COVID-19 Legislative Update**

#### **Legislation**

##### ***Supplemental V***

Timeline/Process: Today, the House Budget Committee approved the bill by a vote of 19-16 and will go through Rules Committee before going to the floor later this week. There is a possibility of votes bleeding into the weekend. The plan remains for the House to pass the package this week, it to move through the Senate next week, and then further House action the following week if there are changes in the Senate.

Politics: After some uncertainty about discretionary funding being passed through reconciliation process, the Senate Parliamentarian has tentatively indicated that discretionary funding should be able to be passed through reconciliation if converted into mandatory funding. However, where minimum wage stands remains unclear. In a [call](#) to governors last week, President Biden seemed to prepare for the reality that raising the minimum wage would not make it into the final bill.

Policy: The Budget Committee approved the bill earlier today. Text [here](#). Press release [here](#).

Last week, the Congressional Budget Office [released](#) scores for nine of the sections of the bill. CBO scores below:

- Ways and Means Committee: \$927.3 billion
- Oversight and Reform Committee: \$350.4 billion

- Transportation and Infrastructure Committee: \$90.5 billion
- Financial Services Committee: \$72.9 billion
- Small Business Committee: \$49.8 billion
- Veterans Affairs Committee: \$16.6 billion
- Agriculture Committee: \$16.1 billion

Bill highlights, as prepared for markups last week below:

**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.

**Oversight and Reform:** one pager [here](#), committee print [here](#)

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**

Moving forward, this section will only include new information and guidance. For past

### ***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 117<sup>th</sup> 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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