

# COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

April 5, 2021

Dear Representative [REDACTED]

This Holy Season has been one of profound joy and sadness. My heart is with all of those who loved U.S. Capitol Police Officer William “Billy” Evans. Amidst this unthinkable tragedy, I am grateful for all those who put their lives on the line to keep us safe.

The impact of the landmark American Rescue Plan has already been felt by Americans in need. Last month’s jobs numbers and the continued successful news from vaccine distribution are reasons to be optimistic about what is to come. As we look ahead to the next work period, we must continue to seize the moment to go big with bold action.

The limits on opportunity—both hidden and overt—in our country have been a persistent evil for far too long, and we must rebuild and restructure our economy to fully utilize the talents of every American. It is up to us to reimagine it in a way that puts workers and their families first, that makes it more equitable, and ultimately, sets Americans up for the better days that lie ahead. I look forward to pulling many of the levers within the Ways and Means jurisdiction to make this happen.

Our first priority will be putting pen to paper on an infrastructure package by building on President Biden’s American Jobs Plan. The President provided us with an ambitious framework that will put people back to work, and make long overdue investments in every single congressional district in America, but it is up to us to build on it and make it a legislative reality. It is no secret that investing in our nation’s crumbling roads and bridges, modernizing our railways, shoring up our electrical grids, and expanding access to broadband have all been priorities of mine for years.

While we are working on this, it is my intent that we will also begin our work to remove hidden barriers to workforce participation caused by the inadequacy of our caring infrastructure. Both our failing physical infrastructure and the impossible choices we impose on caregivers put our nation at a competitive disadvantage. If it is the road that gets you to work, it is the child care that gets you through the day, and workers are counting on these supports. Strengthening our care economy will align closely with President Biden’s American Family Plan that he is set to unveil in the coming weeks, but the urgency of this necessitates that we begin our work now.

None of this is new to us, in fact, we will look to the [Economic Mobility Act](#) and [the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act](#) as starting points for which we can build bold, long-term solutions.

This is our opportunity to reduce child poverty by permanently extending the changes to the Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit that we made in the American Rescue Plan.

Child care needs to be a guarantee, not an expensive hassle that drives parents out of the workforce or makes them choose between wages and family. We will make it easier for people to find the care that fits their specific needs. And we will put an end to a structure that depends on the exploitation of child care workers to make child care affordable, and increase wages for the essential workers helping raise the next generation. By increasing their wages, we will reduce turnover of child care workers, improve stability for children, and increase the supply of child care for parents and grandparents.

We will give every worker the right to paid family and medical leave, whether it's because they've just welcomed a new child into their family, they have a loved one in need of care, or they are dealing with their own medical issue. And if employers or states already have paid leave policies that support their workers, we will provide additional support so they can maintain and improve them.

Americans are counting on us to not only make jobs available at the end of this tunnel, but to vastly improve their working conditions.

We have the tools, the will, and now, we get to work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Richard E. Neal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Richard E. Neal, Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means