

### **Republican Motion to Instruct #3**

## **STOP USING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO ADVANCE A POLITICAL AGENDA**

### **Offered by Representative Feenstra (IA) and Representative Boebert (CO)**

Mr. Feenstra and Mrs. Boebert move that the Committee on the Budget direct its Chairman to request on behalf of the Committee that the rule providing for consideration of the bill make in order an amendment that would strike all provisions of the bill that are not directly related to the vaccination, testing, or treatment of COVID-19—those provisions that make up more than 90 percent of the bill but which are not directly related to responding to the pandemic.

#### **Background**

- (1) This bill contains \$1.9 trillion of spending, of which only \$160 billion or 8 percent is directly related to combating COVID-19. Conversely, \$1.7 trillion or more than 90 percent of the bill's total funding is not directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (2) The bill includes funding for several provisions that are unrelated to combating the pandemic:
  - a. \$135 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA);
  - b. \$135 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH);
  - c. \$200 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services;
  - d. \$12 billion for foreign aid;
  - e. More than \$500 billion for state and local aid; and
  - f. An additional \$500 billion for policies that reduce employment including an expansion to unemployment benefits, which will make it so more than half of Americans would earn more from this benefit than from actual work; a \$15 Washington mandate, which would result in 1.4 million jobs lost and could destroy up to 2.7 million jobs; universal basic income for parents; and Obamacare expansions.
  - g. Funding for provisions unrelated to combating the pandemic should be removed from the bill.
- (3) The bill contains funding to combat the COVID-19 pandemic through public health spending such as vaccines, testing, contact tracing, mitigation, etc.
  - a. \$20 billion for a national vaccination program;
  - b. \$50 billion to diagnose, trace, and test for COVID-19;
  - c. \$30 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund to purchase supplies and protective gear;
  - d. \$20 billion for general aid to tribal governments; and
  - e. \$40 billion for health services for underserved populations, long-term care facilities, and COVID-19-related assistance.

(4) Over the last year, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–123), the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116–127), the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136), the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (Public Law 116–139), and Division N (relating to additional coronavirus response and relief) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) were enacted into law, totaling approximately \$4 trillion. Any further legislation should be narrowly tailored to addressing the pandemic, not an ideological wish list.

### **Technical Language**

The amendment should strike all provisions in the bill that are not directly related to the vaccination, testing, or treatment of COVID-19 including:

section 2021 (National Endowment for the Arts), section 2022 (National Endowment for the Humanities), section 2023 (Institute of Museum and Library Services), section 3013 (Funding for Global Health), section 1007 (Funding for Food for Peace Title II Grants), section 5001 (Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds), section 602 (Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund), section 603 (Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund), section 9011 (Extension of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance), section 9012 (Extension of Emergency Unemployment Relief for Governmental Entities and Nonprofit Organizations), section 9013 (Extension of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation), section 9014 (Extension of Full Funding of the First Week of Compensable Regular Unemployment for States with No Waiting Week), section 9016 (Extension of Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation), section 9017 (Extension of Temporary Financing of Short-time Compensation Payments in States with Programs in Law), section 9018 (Extension of Temporary Financing of Short-time Compensation Agreements for States Without Programs in Law), section 2101 (Raising the Federal Minimum Wage), section 9611 (Child Tax Credit Improvements for 2021), section 7527a (Advance Payment of Child Tax Credit), section 9612 (Application of Child Tax Credit in Possessions), section 9661 (Improving Affordability by Expanding Premium Assistance for Consumer), section 9662 (Temporary Modification of Limitations on Reconciliation of Tax Credits for Coverage Under a Qualified Health Plan with Advance Payments of Such Credit), section 9663 (Application of Premium Tax Credit in Case of Individuals Receiving Unemployment Compensation During 2021).