

## **Republican Motion to Instruct #11**

### **SUPPORT FOR AMERICANS HARMED BY LOCKDOWNS**

#### **Offered by Representative Good (VA) and Representative Cline (VA)**

Mr. Good and Mr. Cline 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 reprioritize funding within the bill that is not directly related to vaccination, testing, or treatment of COVID-19 to provide support, or supplement existing resources, for Americans negatively impacted by state and local lockdowns, particularly regarding the effects on mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence.

#### **Background**

- (1) In response to the pandemic, several states have issued mandatory lockdowns. Beginning in March 2020, states began issuing orders directing residents to stay at home, businesses and restaurants to limit capacity—or close altogether—and schools to close. As a result of state and local government lockdowns, American families' well-being has suffered.
- (2) School closures negatively impact students' mental health.
  - a. A study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed an increase in the percentage of emergency room visits among youths related to mental health.
  - b. The public-school district in Clark County, Nevada experienced 18 student suicides since last March, doubling the previous year's total.
  - c. Students are increasingly more stressed and concerned about mental health after shutdowns began. For instance, a survey of 11,000 students ages 13 and older has shown that after school closures began, 38 percent of those students felt more concerned about their mental health, 51 percent are more stressed, and 39 percent feel lonelier as a result.
- (3) Lockdowns adversely affect families regarding mental health, substance use, and domestic violence.
  - a. In June 2020, calls to suicide hotlines were up 47 percent nationwide with some crisis lines experiencing a 300 percent increase.
  - b. The number of adults reporting symptoms of anxiety disorder in January 2021 (41 percent) was almost four times that of 2019 (11 percent).
  - c. In a survey from June 2020, 13 percent of adults reported new or increased substance use due to coronavirus-related stress.
  - d. Data shows that drug overdose deaths were particularly pronounced from March to May 2020, coinciding with the start of pandemic-related lockdowns.

- e. Data from a major Massachusetts hospital found a significant year-over-year jump in intimate partner violence cases among patients—nearly all women—who sought emergency care during the COVID-19 pandemic's first few weeks.
- (4) To mitigate the effects of lockdowns, the legislation should prioritize funding towards programs that support Americans struggling with mental health, substance abuse, and/or domestic violence issues. Funding for non-COVID-19 related provisions, such as increasing the federal minimum wage mandate and expanding Medicaid to include prisoners and states that have already rejected the Medicaid expansion, should be redirected to these accounts.

### **Technical Language**

The amendment should:

- (1) strike sections in the bill that are not directly related to COVID-19, including: section 2101 (Raising the Federal minimum wage) (\$54 billion), section 3103 (Allowing for medical assistance under Medicaid for inmates during the 30-day period preceding release) (\$3.7 billion), and section 3105 (Temporary increase in FMAP for medical assistance under State Medicaid plans which began to expend amounts for certain mandatory individuals) (\$21.8 billion); and
- (2) add \$4,260,000,000 for programs to assist Americans struggling with mental health issues, substance abuse, and domestic violence due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including: section 2206 (Programs for Survivors; \$450,000,000 to \$900,000,000), section 2207 (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment; \$250,000,000 to \$500,000,000), section 3051 (Funding for Block Grants for Community Mental Health Services; \$1,750,000,000 to \$3,500,000,000), section 3052 (Funding for Block Grants for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse; \$1,750,000,000 to \$3,500,000,000), section 3058 (Funding for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network; \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000), section 3059 (Funding for Project AWARE; \$30,000,000 to \$60,000,000), and section 3059A (Funding for Youth Suicide Prevention; \$20,000,000 to \$40,000,000).