



## U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
204-E CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
Washington, DC 20515

February 7, 2022

The Honorable Shalanda D. Young  
Acting Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Acting Director Young:

Today is the first Monday of February, the deadline for the President's budget request to be submitted to Congress, as required by the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974. Last year, the Biden Administration was the latest ever in the modern budget era to submit a budget request. The budget, finally submitted to Congress in late May 2021, proposed the highest spending levels and the highest sustained tax burden in American history.

Given that it appears this Administration's indifference towards the annual statutory deadline will continue with its fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget request, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) should use the additional time it has self-granted to ensure the President's FY 2023 budget request provides the American people a full accounting of how the President would implement and fund the various policies and promises his Administration has made over the past 12 months as well as acknowledge and account for the current economic challenges facing the country.

In preparing the President's budget request, please provide transparency regarding the following questions:

- 1) On numerous occasions the White House has commented that the full \$5 trillion Build Back Better (BBB) bill would be fully paid for and cost "zero dollars." Will the President's FY 2023 budget request reflect a fully paid for Build Back Better plan?
- 2) Since the White House has acknowledged that spending enacted without pay-fors will contribute to higher inflation, will the President's budget request provide for a \$5 trillion tax hike to cover the cost of making that agenda permanent?
- 3) If offsets for the BBB are in the form of tax increases on the American public, will those tax increases be ones already widely rejected by the Democrat majority in control of Congress?

- 4) Can the Administration guarantee such tax increases will not impact Americans making less than \$400,000, as promised over the past year?
- 5) Will the President's FY 2023 budget request include a continued push to drastically increase the size and scope of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), giving the IRS an additional \$80 billion to hire 87,000 new agents and turning local banks into an IRS enforcement arm?
- 6) Will such a proposal for the IRS to monitor bank accounts be established at a \$600 level of inflows and outflows as originally proposed or at the \$10,000 level later suggested – particularly given that the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that an average of 87 million Americans making less than the White House's \$400,000 income threshold would be targeted under even the \$10,000 level proposal?
- 7) Will President Biden reintroduce these IRS proposals given the impact they would have on low- to middle-income Americans – including working families, farmers, small businesses, and gig economy workers?
- 8) Will the President propose using such IRS enforcement as pay-fors to cover spending under BBB knowing that none of that revenue is eligible to be used as an offset due to Congressional scorekeeping rule 14?
- 9) Will the President's FY 2023 budget account for an increase or outright elimination of the cap on the State and Local Tax Deduction (SALT), a policy widely understood to disproportionately benefit the wealthy?
- 10) Will the President signal outright support for removing or increasing the current SALT cap in his budget given House Democrats have claimed "No SALT, No Deal"?
- 11) If President Biden decides to include a change to the SALT deduction, can he promise that low- and middle-income Americans will not have to pay higher taxes to offset his policy?
- 12) Given the mounting evidence about the origins of COVID-19 and that the People's Republic of China (PRC) has been clearly involved in covering up or at the very least brazenly withholding information about the pandemic's beginnings, will the President's FY 2023 budget provide for or allow for funding of viral research in the PRC?
- 13) Given that Congress has already enacted \$6 trillion in spending related to the COVID-19 pandemic – of which \$2 trillion was enacted by the Biden Administration and billions of dollars subsequently diverted, including money meant to develop COVID-19 testing, to deal with housing illegal immigrants at the southern border – will the President's FY 2023 budget include a request for yet more billions of dollars for so-called "COVID-19 relief"?


- 14) Given that courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States, have ruled to block implementation of the Administration's vaccine mandates, will the President's FY 2023 budget include funding for – or allow the funding of – implementation of a Federal vaccine mandate?
- 15) Given the current national security crisis at the southern border, will the President's FY 2023 budget request once again freeze funding levels at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – particularly after reports that DHS was having to shift resources among operating budget accounts, including agent payroll, to cover the rising cost of responding to the surge of illegal immigrants?
- 16) Will the President's FY 2023 budget request provide American taxpayers with a clear strategy to address the border crisis as well as an accounting of how many taxpayer dollars have already been and will be earmarked for the purposes of paying for the benefits of illegal immigrants?
- 17) How will the President's FY 2023 budget address the reprogramming of funds diverted from the operating budgets of DHS to house immigrants at the border and other activities that have encouraged an influx of illegal immigration?
- 18) Will the President's FY 2023 budget account for, prescribe for, and/or identify the spending of taxpayer dollars to move illegal immigrants throughout the country via planes or other forms of transportation?
- 19) Will the President's FY 2023 budget reflect the bipartisan support for higher defense spending, or will the FY 2023 request continue to flatline U.S. Department of Defense funding at levels below the pace of inflation – as was done in his FY 2022 budget which conversely gave an on-average 16 percent increases to non-defense spending?
- 20) Will the President's FY 2023 budget guarantee that no American taxpayer dollars will either directly, or indirectly, flow to the Taliban through contributions to the United Nations, other third-parties, and/or non-governmental organization (NGOs)?
- 21) Will the President's FY 2023 budget include full funding of the Iron Dome defense system used by our ally Israel – reflective of the growing security threats Israel faces and the use of that defense system to protect Israel from rocket attacks over the past year?
- 22) Will the President's FY 2023 budget reflect more realistic inflation, economic growth, and job creation assumptions given that since introduction of the President's FY 2022 budget inflation has climbed to a forty year high, economic growth has dramatically underperformed that which the Administration predicted its policies would deliver, and job creation is at the baseline predicted to occur absent those policies?
- 23) Will the President's FY 2023 budget include in its analysis the impact policies such as subsidizing child care and the removal of work requirements for the Child Tax Credit might have on the labor market – including the fact that the Congressional Budget Office

(CBO) has said that under a proposal to subsidize child care there will be higher child care costs for families who do not qualify for the subsidies, less income to spend on other goods and services, and fewer hours worked by low- to middle-income parents in order to continue to qualify for government benefits?

- 24) Will the President's FY 2023 budget include spending taxpayer dollars on new government programs established by the White House to push an ideological, race, and gender-based narrative – including the new DHS “Climate Change Professionals Program,” a new payment model for physicians who implement “antiracism” in their care plans, the new HHS “Office of Climate Change and Health Equity,” and new guidance from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that prompts health systems to prioritize COVID-19 treatments based on an individual's race?
- 25) Will the President's FY 2023 budget address pending cuts to important programs – including a \$40 billion cut to Medicare looming this year – due to the mass expansion of mandatory government spending enacted by the White House and Congressional Democrats that resulted in a current balance on the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go scorecards of approximately \$1.9 trillion?
- 26) Given the multiple extensions of the student loan moratorium by President Biden, at a monthly cost of \$4.3 billion according to CBO, will the FY 2023 budget request include a continuation of this policy beyond its May 2023 expiration?
- 27) Will the President's FY 2023 budget include funding for the U.S. Department of Education to forgive all student loans – a regressive policy that studies have shown would disproportionately benefit the wealthy?
- 28) Given the labor shortages in the U.S. economy and the fact that the labor force participation rate was actually lower at the end of 2021 than what CBO projected prior to passage of the \$2 trillion American Rescue Plan Act, will the President's FY 2023 budget further exacerbate that challenge with policies that would increase the number of Americans employed by the federal government at taxpayer expense?
- 29) Will the President's FY 2023 budget once again promote taxpayer funding of abortions by excluding the long-standing, bipartisan Hyde Amendment protections that prohibit the use of taxpayer dollars to subsidize abortion services?
- 30) Given the short-term and long-term negative impact on children and families from prolonged school closures and given that masks can impede the ability of children – particularly young children – to learn in the classroom, will the President's FY 2023 budget reflect and respect the needs of students and parents to have schools opened and in-person, avoid subsidizing schools that continue to bar children from in-person learning, and allow decisions regarding masks to be made by parents?


It is imperative that the Biden Administration provide answers to the above questions either in advance of or in the process of presenting President Biden’s FY 2023 budget. The Administration’s budget request to Congress must not ignore the present challenges facing the country, and the American people would be best served by a budget request from the President that speaks to the concerns working families are facing each and every day.

Sincerely,  
House Budget Committee Republicans



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Jason Smith (MO-08), Republican Leader  
Member of Congress




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Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (TX-26)  
Member of Congress



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Trent Kelly (MS-01)  
Member of Congress




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Earl L. “Buddy” Carter (GA-01)  
Member of Congress



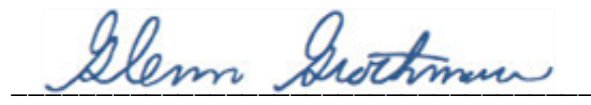
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Tom McClintock (CA-04)  
Member of Congress




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Ben Cline (VA-06)  
Member of Congress




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Glenn Grothman (WI-06)  
Member of Congress



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Lauren Boebert (CO-03)  
Member of Congress



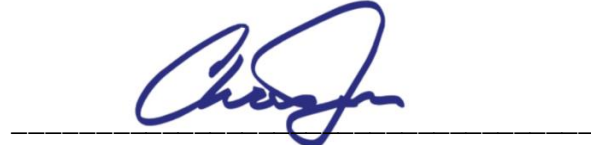
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Lloyd Smucker (PA-11)  
Member of Congress



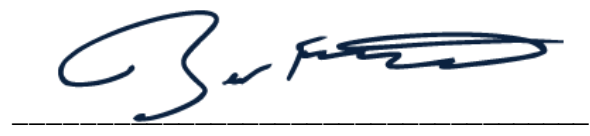
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Byron Donalds (FL-19)  
Member of Congress



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Chris Jacobs (NY-27)  
Member of Congress



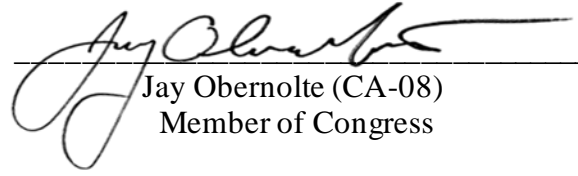
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Randy Feenstra (IA-04)  
Member of Congress



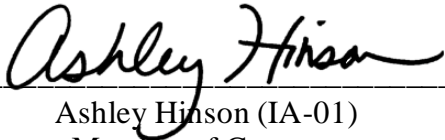
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Bob Good (VA-05)  
Member of Congress



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Jay Obernolte (CA-08)  
Member of Congress



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Ashley Hinson (IA-01)  
Member of Congress



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Mike Carey (OH-15)  
Member of Congress

## **Key Facts Addendum Regarding the President’s Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Request**

### **Cost & Status of the Build Back Better Agenda**

*(Questions 1-4)*

- President Biden and others have stated they have every intent to continue pursuing partisan inflation driving legislation to spend \$5 trillion known as the “Build Back Better” (BBB) Act in some form or another. During a press conference on January 19, 2022, President Biden said, “Yes, I’m confident we can get pieces — big chunks of the Build Back Better law signed into law.”<sup>1</sup>
- While Congressional Democrats purposefully included sunset dates and budgetary gimmicks to make the BBB legislation appear less expensive on paper, it is well understood that the White House and Congressional Democrats have every intention of making their policy agenda permanent.
- A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score from December 10, 2021, showed that making the provisions of the BBB permanent would cost \$5 trillion over the next 10 years and add \$3 trillion to the debt.
- White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said on December 10, 2021, President Biden “would never support extending these programs if they weren’t paid for, period. That has been his commitment. That is his commitment.”<sup>2</sup>

### **Biden Administration’s Plans for a Ballooning & Snooping IRS**

*(Questions 5-8)*

- In its FY 2022 budget proposal, the Biden Administration included an additional \$80 billion to hire 87,000 new agents, which would more than double the size of the IRS – surpassing the agency’s peak staffing levels under the Obama Administration which coincided with the notorious Lois Lerner scandal where conservative groups were targeted for additional IRS enforcement and scrutiny.
- The Biden Administration projects that its IRS spending binge will increase revenue by \$316 billion. The CBO projects much lower revenue, only \$200 billion, which falls to a net gain of \$120 billion when accounting for the \$80 billion in spending. However, none of that revenue is eligible to be used as an offset due to Congressional scorekeeping rule 14.

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<sup>1</sup> “Remarks by President Biden in Press Conference,” The White House, January 19, 2022, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/01/19/remarks-by-president-biden-in-press-conference-6/>.

<sup>2</sup> “Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki,” The White House, December 10, 2021, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2021/12/10/press-briefing-by-press-secretary-jen-psaki-december-10-2021/>.

- The FY 2022 budget request included a proposal to create a “comprehensive financial account information reporting regime,” requiring financial institutions to report to the IRS the financial activity for any personal or business bank, loan, or investment accounts that have gross inflows or outflows of \$600 or more – encompassing virtually all Americans. The proposed threshold was later changed to \$10,000.
- The Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that an average of 87 million Americans making less than the White House’s often-used \$400,000 income threshold would be targeted under the proposal, even assuming the higher \$10,000 threshold.<sup>3</sup>
- Approximately 80 percent of the country spends more than \$10,000 on rent alone<sup>4</sup> and the average taxpayer spent over \$10,000 on food and entertainment in 2020.<sup>5</sup> It is safe to assume that virtually every American would still be targeted under this proposal – despite the Biden Administration’s attempt to say otherwise.

## **Efforts to Subsidize Wealthy Communities & the Wealthiest One Percent** (Questions 9-11)

- Changes to the \$10,000 limitation on the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction – a provision that became law to ensure that Federal taxpayers were not subsidizing the wealthy as well as high tax states with bloated government bureaucracies – continues to be a part of the BBB negotiations.
- The BBB bill that passed the U.S. House of Representatives included a \$270 billion SALT tax break for the wealthy – targeted at the wealthiest one percent.
- Under the SALT provision in the BBB bill that passed the U.S. House of Representatives, millionaires would receive a \$25,900 tax cut.

## **China’s Role in the COVID-19 Pandemic** (Question 12)

- On June 9, 2021, during a U.S. House Committee on the Budget hearing on President Biden’s FY 2022 budget request, Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Shalanda Young testified that she would not commit to the White House barring future National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding from going to Chinese lab research and related projects conducted at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) – suggesting the need to wait and see the results of a 90-day intelligence report from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) to review the origins of COVID-19.

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<sup>3</sup> “Correspondence from the Joint Committee on Taxation to Republican Leader Jason Smith,” Thomas A. Barthold, Joint Committee on Taxation, December 3, 2021, <https://republicans-budget.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/117-0809-fjs.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> “Select Housing Characteristics,” Census Bureau, Accessed on January 21, 2022, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=United%20States%20Housing&t=Renter%20Costs&g=0100000US%24040000&tid=ACSDP1Y2019.DP04&hidePreview=true>.

<sup>5</sup> “Consumer Expenditures – 2020,” Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 9, 2021, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cesan.nr0.htm>.



- The DNI report along with a follow-up DNI review released on October 29, 2021, have both resulted in inconclusive decisions.
- On October 20, 2021, in response to U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform Ranking Member James Comer (KY-01), NIH admitted to previously providing a taxpayer-funded grant to EcoHealth Alliance to conduct gain-of-function viral research at the WIV in 2019.
- The People’s Republic of China continues to brazenly withhold information and be otherwise uncooperative with efforts to discern the origin of COVID-19.

## **COVID-19 Spending**

*(Question 13)*

- In March 2021, \$2 trillion in so-called “COVID-19 relief” spending was enacted – though less than nine percent of spending in that legislation was actually dedicated to the public health efforts to directly combat COVID-19.
- That spending package also resulted in multiple, easily predicted instances of waste and abuse of federal taxpayer dollars, including hundreds of billions of dollars to bail out state governments, and billions of dollars to build bike trails, new high school weight rooms, apartment buildings, and golf courses to name just a few examples.
- Since then, the Biden Administration has diverted billions of dollars – including money intended to develop COVID-19 testing – to deal with housing illegal immigrants at the southern border.<sup>6</sup>
- To date, Congress has enacted \$6 trillion in spending related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, reports indicate that the Biden Administration is planning to make a request for additional funding to supposedly combat COVID-19 – including \$2 trillion since President Biden came into office.<sup>7</sup>
- The Biden Administration has yet to comply with numerous Congressional requests for a full accounting of the \$6 trillion Congress appropriated in COVID-19 relief – including information about the use of current COVID-19 relief funds and the funds still remaining.

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<sup>6</sup> “Biden admin reroutes billions in emergency stockpile, Covid funds to bordercrunch,” Politico, May 15, 2021, <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/05/15/hhs-covid-stockpile-money-border-migrants-488427>.

<sup>7</sup> “U.S. government may request more COVID-19 testing funds,” Reuters, December 14, 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-us-government-likely-request-more-covid-19-testing-funds-2021-12-14/>.

## Vaccine Mandates

(Question 14)

- On January 13, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States, in the cases of *NFIB v. OSHA* and the *State of Ohio v. OSHA*, blocked implementation of the Administration's Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) emergency temporary standard (ETS) forcing private companies to enforce a COVID-19 vaccine mandate on its employees.
- On January 25, 2022, OSHA withdrew its ETS, but left the door open for future vaccine mandates in the workplace.<sup>8</sup>
- On January 25, 2022, a Federal judge in the Southern District of Texas ruled that the Biden Administration is unable to enforce Executive Order 14043, mandating COVID-19 vaccination for Federal employees. The department-based disciplinary actions facing 40,000 Federal employees have been halted.
- An amendment to prohibit the use of funds for implementing or enforcing the Federal vaccine mandate for businesses with 100 employees or more was narrowly defeated in the U.S. Senate in December 2021.<sup>9</sup>

## Homeland Security Funding & Border Security

(Questions 15-18)

- In the Biden Administration's FY 2022 budget request, funding levels for the U.S. Departments of Defense (DoD) and Homeland Security (DHS) were effectively flatlined, while funding levels for non-defense discretionary programs were increased by 16 percent.
- In just 11 months, and as a direct result of the Biden Administration's executive actions, the crisis at the border has ballooned out of control: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) encountered 1,955,449 illegal crossings at the southwest border, averaging 177,768 a month. A monthly average increase of 262 percent over the previous year.
- \$350 million worth of unused border wall steel continues to rust away, and billions have been paid to contractors to babysit unused materials, as a result of the Biden Administration's decision to halt construction of the border wall.
- Millions of taxpayer dollars have been spent to move illegal immigrants between federal facilities, on bus and plane tickets to transport them across the country, and to send stimulus checks to non-citizens.

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<sup>8</sup> "OSHA withdraws its vaccine-or-test rule, but leaves door open," Politico Pro, January 25, 2022, <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2022/01/osha-withdraws-its-vaccine-or-test-rule-but-leaves-door-open-00001766>.

<sup>9</sup> "Congress thwarts shutdown after vaccine mandate clash," Politico, December 2, 2021, <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/12/02/short-term-funding-deal-shutdown-523663>.

- On April 27, 2021, an inquiry was made to the Biden Administration for answers concerning reports that DHS was having to direct resources from operating budget accounts, including agent payroll, to respond to the border crisis. This included CBP transferring \$50,000 per month out of their operational funds to provide migrant child care items. OMB has yet to respond to this inquiry.

## **National Security & Foreign Affairs Funding**

*(Questions 19-21)*

- The United Nations (UN) has requested \$8 billion for humanitarian needs in Afghanistan from its members, including the United States.<sup>10</sup> Given the horribly executed withdrawal from Afghanistan, there are serious concerns that Federal funding for critical humanitarian efforts on the ground will be poorly overseen, fail to provide the intended assistance – including protecting women’s rights and education – and instead flow directly through or to the benefit of the Taliban.
- Every effort should be made to ensure that the Taliban cannot manipulate beneficiary lists associated with humanitarian aid administered by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UN, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN’s World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), non-governmental organizations, and other relevant organizations.
- During a U.S. House Committee on the Budget hearing on June 24, 2021, on the President’s FY 2022 budget, Michael J. McCord, the Under Secretary of Defense Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer at the U.S. Department of Defense, testified that the Biden Administration was supportive of a request by Israel for “assistance from the United States to replenish their inventories of the Iron Dome system that they’ve used to respond to the rocket attacks.”<sup>11</sup>
- In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, signed into law by President Biden on December 27, 2021, Congress authorized additional funding for Iron Dome. However, to date, the Biden Administration has not sent a formal request to Congress for additional funds to be appropriated – despite reassurances the Administration supports the program.

## **Biden Administration’s Inflation Crisis**

*(Question 22)*

- President Biden and Administration officials have repeatedly sought to downplay the rise in inflation that most recently reached a 40-year high in December 2021.

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<sup>10</sup> “UN announces Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF) for Afghanistan to save lives, sustain services and preserve community systems,” United Nations Press Release, January 26, 2022, <https://afghanistan.un.org/en/169690-un-announces-transitional-engagement-framework-tef-afghanistan-save-lives-sustain-services>.

<sup>11</sup> “Department of Defense’s Fiscal Year 2022 Budget,” House Committee on the Budget, June 24, 2021, <https://budget.house.gov/legislation/hearings/department-defense-s-fy-2022-budget>.

- The President’s FY 2022 budget predicted only 2.1% inflation – much lower than has occurred over the past year.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in 2021 more than tripled the Administration’s inflation projections.<sup>12</sup>
- CBO has recently issued an analysis that confirmed inflation harms rural communities at a disproportionately higher rate than urban areas. CBO found inflation in rural areas was 130 percent that of urban areas, causing an inflationary erosion of wages that resulted in 25 percent slower real wage growth in rural areas than urban areas.<sup>13</sup>
- The rise in inflation undoubtedly will have an impact on the status of interest rates – the Federal Reserve has signaled its intent to raise rates – and therefore the cost to service the nation’s debt beyond what was previously projected by the Administration.
- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which President Biden and Congressional Democrats promised would create 4 million jobs, did not produce a single job above what was predicted to occur absent additional spending.<sup>14</sup> In fact, job growth in 2021 was lower than the CBO baseline which did not include ARPA spending or policies.<sup>15</sup>

## **Biden Administration’s Policies Discouraging Work**

*(Questions 23 & 28)*

- In analyzing the effects of the proposed expansion of subsidized child care, CBO found there will be higher child care costs for families who do not qualify for the subsidies, fewer hours worked by parents in order to qualify, and less income to spend on other goods and services.<sup>16</sup>
- ARPA removed the work requirement for the Child Tax Credit – meaning households could receive monthly payments of up to \$300 per child without proving employment status.
- The current labor force participation rate is 62.2 percent, roughly what CBO projected it would be today – a projection that was made prior to passage of ARPA. Further evidence

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<sup>12</sup> “Consumer Price Index – December 2021, Bureau of Labor Statistics,” January 12, 2022, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cpi.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> “Price and Wage Growth in Rural Areas,” Congressional Budget Office, January 31, 2022, <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/57794>.

<sup>14</sup> “December Jobs Report Confirms Democrats’ \$1.9 Trillion American Rescue Plan Didn’t Produce a Single Promised Job in 2021,” American Enterprise Institute, January 7, 2022, <https://www.aei.org/poverty-studies/december-jobs-report-confirms-democrats-1-9-trillion-american-rescue-plan-didnt-produce-a-single-promised-job-in-2021/>.

<sup>15</sup> “The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2021 to 2031,” Congressional Budget Office, February 2021, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2021-02/56970-Outlook.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> “Economic Effects of Expanding Subsidized Child Care and Providing Universal Preschool,” Congressional Budget Office, November 21, 2021, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2021-11/57630-Child-Care.pdf>.

that ARPA policies have not moved the needle on employment while ARPA spending continues to fuel inflation.

## **Biden Administration’s Ideological, Race, & Gender-Based Narrative**

*(Question 24)*

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has made the decision to create a “Climate Change Professionals Program” on the taxpayer’s dime. This program will “develop the next generation of climate experts,” at the federal department tasked with keeping our country safe from national security threats.
- Since the start of the Biden Administration, Federal health agencies and subagencies have overstepped their goals of promoting diversity and equity in health care at the unfortunate expense of patients and health care providers. For example, proposed changes for the 2024 Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) would reward physicians for superficially implementing “antiracism” plans in their practice more-heavily than the incentives for radiologists to provide more timely cancer diagnoses or mental health providers to develop personalized care plans.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) created the “Office of Climate Change and Health Equity,” which will “address the impact of climate change on the health of the American people.”
- Most recently, guidance from the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has prompted health systems to prioritize COVID-19 treatments based on an individual’s race, potentially leading to an unjust rationing of care.

## **PAYGO & Democrat’s Medicare Cuts**

*(Question 25)*

- Public Law 117-71 transferred the debit balances, which are a direct result of Democrats’ reckless spending agenda, on the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go scorecards into FY 2023.
- As a result, Americans will face automatic cuts to critical programs such as Medicare in early 2023.
- The Biden Administration and lawmakers should openly discuss ways to replace the pending programmatic cuts to things like Medicare in order to protect America’s seniors and individuals on low- or fixed-incomes, but still cutting government spending by the amount required under Statutory Pay-As-You-Go law.
- For example, H.R. 6144, the *Removing Waste and Protecting Medicare Act*, protects programs like Medicare, but still honors the amount of cuts required under PAYGO law by instead reducing spending elsewhere. Specifically, the bill reinstates the Trump Administration’s Public Charge Rule, requires valid Social Security Numbers (SSN) for

employment to receive the Child Tax Credit (CTC), and extends the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act's SSN requirement for CTC; implements work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); scales back spending enacted under the March 2021 \$2 trillion so-called "COVID-relief" bill, including funds from the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund and the Coronavirus Relief Funds Assistance for State, Local & Tribal Governments.<sup>17</sup>

## **Student Loans & the Permanent Pandemic Narrative**

*(Questions 26-27)*

- Cancelling all student loans would cost federal taxpayers an estimated \$1.6 trillion.<sup>18</sup>
- Studies have found that across-the-board student loan forgiveness is regressive and will disproportionately benefit wealthier borrowers.<sup>19</sup>
- The White House has yet to release the U.S. Department of Education's memorandum regarding the legality of executive authority to cancel all student loans. Rather, the Biden Administration has continued to use the narrative of COVID-19 to extend the repayment moratorium.
- Despite announcing in August 2021, the "final extension" with January 31, 2022, as the "definitive end date,"<sup>20</sup> President Biden once again extended the moratorium in December 2021 to May 2022.
- According to CBO, the student loan repayment moratorium costs the Federal Government \$4.3 billion every month it is extended.

## **Taxpayer Funding of Abortion**

*(Question 29)*

- Congress has operated for decades with a mutual understanding that taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund abortion services. Since 1976, Congress has supported the Hyde Amendment to ensure that taxpayer dollars will not be used to fund abortions in Medicaid.

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<sup>17</sup> Smith Introduces Bill to Slash Washington Waste and Prevent Cuts to Medicare, Other Vital Programs, Triggered by Democrats' Reckless Spending, House Budget Committee Republicans, December 7, 2021, <https://republicans-budget.house.gov/press-release/smith-introduces-bill-to-slash-washington-waste-and-prevent-cuts-to-medicare-other-vital-programs-triggered-by-democrats-reckless-spending/>

<sup>18</sup> What Does Student Debt Cancellation Mean for Federal Finances?, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, January 13, 2022, <https://www.crfb.org/blogs/what-does-student-debt-cancellation-mean-federal-finances>.

<sup>19</sup> "Student loan forgiveness is regressive whether measured by income, education, or wealth," Brookings Institute, January 14, 2022, [https://www.brookings.edu/research/student-loan-forgiveness-is-regressive-whether-measured-by-income-education-or-wealth/?utm\\_campaign=Brookings%20Brief&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=201122818&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.brookings.edu/research/student-loan-forgiveness-is-regressive-whether-measured-by-income-education-or-wealth/?utm_campaign=Brookings%20Brief&utm_medium=email&utm_content=201122818&utm_source=hs_email).

<sup>20</sup> "Biden Administration Extends Student Loan Pause Until January 31, 2022," Department of Education, August 6, 2021, <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-administration-extends-student-loan-pause-until-january-31-2022>.

- This vital protection has prevailed and even grown to prevent taxpayer dollars from providing abortions for those with federal health benefits, receiving care at military medical facilities, the Indian Health Service, and those with health care plans on the Affordable Care Act exchanges.
- The Hyde Amendment is noticeably absent from the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, putting this important protection in jeopardy.

## **Keeping Schools Open**

*(Question 30)*

- On February 2, 2022, Johns Hopkins University released a study that confirmed the “devastating effects” of lockdowns and proved they were “not an effective way of reducing mortality rates during a pandemic.” Researchers said, “we find no evidence that lockdowns, school closures, border closures, and limiting gatherings have had a noticeable effect on COVID-19 mortality.”<sup>21</sup>
- While school closures across the country have had little to no impact on preventing the spread of COVID-19, they have had long-term effects on the social and emotional health of students, who were abruptly isolated from their peers.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> "A Literature Review and Meta-Analysis of the Effects of Lockdowns on COVID-19 Mortality," Johns Hopkins Institute for Applied Economics, Global Health, and the Study of Business Enterprise, January 2022, <https://sites.krieger.jhu.edu/iae/files/2022/01/A-Literature-Review-and-Meta-Analysis-of-the-Effects-of-Lockdowns-on-COVID-19-Mortality.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> "The Students Returned, but the Fallout From a Long Disruption Remained," New York Times, December 24, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/24/us/politics/covid-school-reopening-teen-mental-health.html?smid=tw-share>