



DPCC

Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow
Vice Chairman Joe Manchin
Vice Chairman Cory Booker

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Senate Democrats have been putting people first every step of the way

On January 20, 2020, the first case of COVID-19 in the United States was confirmed. Since that day, 18 million cases have been reported. And tragically, more than 318,000 Americans have died. No American family, business, or community has been untouched by the worst pandemic in our lifetime.

From the very beginning, Senate Democrats understood the stakes. We knew this virus would have devastating impacts on the American people and our economy, so we spoke out and took bold action.

From the start, we called for more [testing](#) and a national strategy for personal protective equipment.

We shined a bright light in April on the [racial disparities](#) this crisis has exacerbated and continued to lift up the critical needs of families, communities, and businesses in our actions throughout the year.

We stood up for [rural and small towns](#), [essential workers](#), and [low-income families](#). And we demanded action to keep [students](#) safe, protect our [state and local services](#), and strengthen [behavioral health care](#) during these especially difficult times.

Taking Action to Help Americans Survive the Pandemic

In the **Families First Coronavirus Response Act**, Democrats expanded paid leave, fed hungry families, helped people who were out of work, and ensured that states were able to provide health care to those who need it.

In the **CARES Act**, Democrats were successful again in putting people first.

And in the **Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act**, we increased help for small business, and successfully fought to ensure that the Paycheck Protection Program would reach minority-owned small businesses, underserved communities, and nonprofits.

As the pandemic worsened, Democrats doubled down. The House passed the **Heroes Act** in May—and a second version in October after Senate Republicans refused to act.

Senate Democrats pushed to pass the House bills week after week throughout the summer and fall.

Why did it take so long for the Republican Senate to act?

In the spring, Majority Leader McConnell suggested struggling states consider bankruptcy and said Senate Republicans had “not yet felt the urgency” to provide more assistance to families and businesses.

By July, as many as twenty Senate Republicans thought we had “already done enough.”

Senate Democrats never stopped fighting to get people help.

In November, a bipartisan group of Senators came together to find a way to get people the immediate help they need. We applaud and support their great work.

It is good news that Congress has passed an emergency package that will help families and communities get through the next few difficult months.

Senate Democrats will continue to push the Senate to act and put people first in 2021.

We know that more must be done in the New Year.

Our families and communities as well as our economy will continue to struggle until the coronavirus is under control and the majority of the American people are safely vaccinated.

2021 brings new hope and optimism.

The incoming Biden Administration will provide bold new leadership starting on January 20.

Senate Democrats are excited and committed to working with President Biden and Vice President Harris to get American families the additional help they need to protect their lives and their livelihoods while we work together to [build our economy back better](#).

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021

Senate Democrats led the bipartisan effort to secure long- and desperately-needed help for families and businesses struggling to get by.


The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 delivers emergency COVID-19 assistance. The bill:

- **Extends all pandemic unemployment insurance programs, and boosts unemployment insurance benefits by an additional \$300 per week.**
- **Extends the federal eviction moratorium and establishes the first-ever emergency federal rental assistance program**, providing \$25 billion in rental assistance to help families stay in their homes. Households will be able to use these funds to cover past due rent, future rent payments, as well as to pay utility and energy bills. The bill reserves \$800 million of these funds for Native American housing entities.
- **Provides direct payment checks worth up to \$600 per adult and child**, and ensures that mixed-status families receive payments.
- **Strengthens food assistance** by increasing SNAP benefits by 15%, providing additional funding for food banks and senior nutrition programs, and ensuring college students have access to SNAP. The bill also dedicates \$614 million for nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico and the territories; allocates emergency funds for school and day care feeding programs; and improves the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program for children.
- **Accelerates vaccine procurement and distribution** with \$32 billion in new funding, including \$300 million for high-risk and underserved areas. This new funding will support the equitable, efficient, and safe distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics.
- **Provides \$22 billion to states for COVID-19 testing, tracing, and mitigation efforts.** This includes \$2.5 billion to meet the needs of underserved communities.
- **Supports education and student learning** with \$82 billion for states, K-12 schools, and institutions of higher education impacted by the pandemic.

- **Includes \$7 billion for broadband programs**, to ensure low-income families, tribes, and rural communities have access to high-speed internet. The bill also funds telehealth initiatives and promotes a more secure telecommunication system.
- **Provides strong small business support**, including funding to allow the hardest-hit small businesses to receive a second forgivable Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. The bill also expands PPP eligibility and provides new funding for Small Business Administration lending and debt relief. And it provides \$20 billion for new grants for businesses in low-income communities and \$15 billion in dedicated funding for live venues, independent movie theaters, and cultural institutions.
- **Supports farmers and ranchers who have suffered losses due to the pandemic** with \$13 billion for direct payments, purchases, and loans. This bill also includes funds to support the food supply chain through food purchases, donations to food banks, and support for local food systems.
- **Supports health care providers** with \$9 billion in new funding.
- **Boosts behavioral health care** with \$4.5 million for services across the country.
- **Provides funding for child care assistance and child care providers.** The bill includes \$10 billion for the Child Care Development Block Grant program and \$250 million for Head Start providers, to ensure they can continue serving low-income children and families.
- **Enhances the earned income tax credit and child tax credit to protect families whose 2020 incomes have been reduced due to the pandemic.**

REPORT


U.S. Lags the World in Testing, Leads the World in COVID-19 Cases



April 15, 2020

Debbie Stabenow
DPCC Chairwoman

Chuck Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader




REPORT

Racial Disparities on Full Display:

COVID-19 IS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

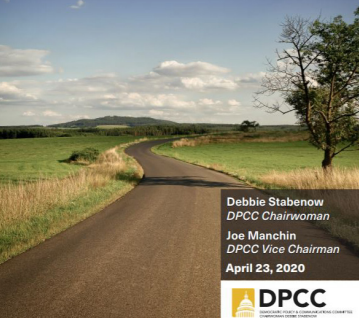
April 30, 2020

Senator Debbie Stabenow DPCC Chairwoman
Senator Chuck Schumer Senate Democratic Leader



Rural America and COVID-19:


Small Towns and Rural Communities are at High Risk



Debbie Stabenow
DPCC Chairwoman

Joe Manchin
DPCC Vice Chairman

April 23, 2020




REPORT

COVID-19 and Its Impact on Our Mental Health

May 13, 2020

Senator Debbie Stabenow DPCC Chairwoman
Senator Joe Manchin DPCC Vice Chairman



During the COVID-19 Crisis, Senate Democrats Are Putting People First

Debbie Stabenow
DPCC Chairwoman

SPECIAL REPORT:
The Cost of Republican Inaction, Volume 1.

American Families and Communities Will Pay the Price


If Republicans Refuse to Support State and Local Services

Debbie Stabenow
DPCC Chairwoman

Chuck Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader

Joe Manchin
DPCC Vice Chairman


May 19, 2020



SPECIAL REPORT:
The Cost of Republican Inaction, Volume 2.


Actions Speak Louder than Words

Essential Workers Deserve More Than a Thank You



Debbie Stabenow DPCC Chairwoman
Chuck Schumer Senate Democratic Leader
Joe Manchin DPCC Vice Chairman

June 10, 2020




SPECIAL REPORT:
The Cost of Republican Inaction, Volume 3.

The Price of Inaction is Highest for Poor Families And Low-Wealth Americans

June 17, 2020

Debbie Stabenow DPCC Chairwoman
Chuck Schumer Senate Democratic Leader



SPECIAL REPORT:
The Cost of Republican Inaction, Volume 4.

Getting Back to School Safely:

America's Students Need Action Now

June 30, 2020

Senator Debbie Stabenow DPCC Chairwoman
Senator Chuck Schumer Senate Democratic Leader

