

Federal Solutions on Housing and Homelessness:

Housing is a Human Right Bill HR 6308: Representative Jayapal

The *Housing is a Human Right Act*:

- Authorizes up to \$100 billion over 10 years for McKinney-Vento Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG);
- Authorizes up to \$100 billion over 10 years for Continuum of Care (COC) grants;
- Creates a new grant program to invest in humane infrastructure, providing municipalities with \$6 billion a year through a flexible program that will allow municipalities to address their most urgent infrastructure needs related to addressing homelessness and housing.
- Authorizes \$10 billion over 10 years for FEMA emergency food and shelter grants and improves grants to better reflect high rates of homelessness and income inequality;
- Authorizes \$100 million over 10 years in grants to public libraries to provide assistance and tailored supports to persons experiencing homelessness;
- Incentivizes local investments in humane, evidence-based models to support people experiencing homelessness, including alternatives to criminalization;
- Prioritizes the right of people experiencing homelessness to access and replace key personal documents, to protect their right to vote; and,
- Invests resources in flexible funds that assist municipalities to engage in evidence-based, non-criminalizing approaches to people experiencing homelessness.
- **Highlights of HR 6308:**
 - Drives mass infusion of cash to frontline service providers
 - Raises revenue for bill, while disincentivizing disaster capitalism for large landlords
 - Expands successful programs, builds crucial infrastructure
 - Invests in support rather than criminalizing homelessness

3/19/20 Referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Education and Labor, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Emergency Rental Assistance Act of 2020: HR 6314 Representative Heck

This legislation would increase short-term rental assistance for most Americans by significantly expanding the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program.

- \$100 billion to ESG for short-term rental assistance.
- This funding would be given out to states in two chunks:
- \$50 billion over the first 60 days, then \$50 billion over the following 60 days targeted toward individuals with the greatest need.
- Would also expand who can receive these funds by allowing those at 80% of area median income (AMI) to receive ESG, a significant increase from current law.
- Finally, while the bill would require localities to report on use of these funds, the reporting requirements would be significantly more flexible for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis, including the allowance of virtual public hearings.
- 03/23/2020 Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services

Paycheck Guarantee Act: Jayapal

- **Businesses, nonprofits and state and local governments of all sizes** that are facing COVID-19 related **revenue losses above a 10% gross receipts** threshold would be eligible as well as **independent contractors, domestic workers and gig workers**.
- Applying entities would receive an **initial three-month lump sum grant payment**, after filing a sworn attestation to the IRS. The grant would cover the percentage of revenue loss of an applying entity (compared to 2019 Q2 or Q3 tax filing data), multiplied by payroll and benefits up to a salary cap of \$90,000, plus an additional 25 percent to cover business operating costs. IRS would distribute the amount directly to the employer.
- **Employers must keep workers on payroll and benefits** and meet other conditions similar to those passed in a bipartisan manner in the CARES Act, such as no stock buybacks and limiting CEO pay.
- The program would cover employees who were **furloughed or laid off after March 1, 2020**, if they are brought back onto payroll. This would immediately substantially reduce the unemployment rate, and bring a substantial number of people off unemployment insurance and back into employment.
- The program **automatically renews until the nationwide unemployment rate remains below 7 percent for three months in a row**.
- If an employer's tax return for 2020 shows revenues equal to or greater than 2019 revenues, the employer will repay the grant within two years as a no-interest loan.

Key Benefits of the Paycheck Guarantee Act:

- Keeping **workers tied to employers with simplicity and speed**: Grants go directly from IRS to employers, with no third parties involved. Entities of all sizes may apply because the purpose is to prevent unemployment regardless of size of employers.
- Keeps **workers on healthcare and other benefits**: Protects tens of millions of workers from losing employer healthcare benefits during pandemic
- Targeted universalism: **Because 80 percent of employees earn less than \$70,000, the vast majority of program funds will benefit lowest and middle-wage workers in the bottom three income quartiles.**
- Public health and economic recovery plan: **Removes economic pressures for businesses or workers to return to work before public health guidance is in place.**
- Flexible for partial or full business operations: **Prorating grants for partial revenue loss allows flexibility in partial or full re-opening, as well as potential re-shuttering with**

second or third waves of infection, while ensuring stability and guaranteed paychecks for employees and stimulating consumer demand.

- ***Simple Mechanisms to Prevent Abuse, Fraud and Overpayments***: Audit functions built in to IRS reporting. Act includes additional money for IRS to implement, administer and enforce fraud strictly.
- ***Better Mechanisms to Help Low-Wage Workers and Minority Businesses: Because of its direct nature, all businesses—including the smallest—would be able to participate with no third-party lender***. Not sending workers to unemployment and other safety net systems provides certainty of employment and helps them and the ***economy recover more quickly***.