



STRONGER AMERICA ★ SECURING OUR FUTURE

★ REBUILDING AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE ★

PROBLEM: Our nation's crumbling infrastructure is in dire need of investment. Once among world leaders in quality infrastructure, the United States now ranks 13th – behind Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and Japan. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), nearly [one-third of America's roads](#) are in poor or mediocre condition and [one in four bridges](#) require significant repair or cannot handle today's traffic. ASCE's overall assessment of our nation's infrastructure [rated America at a D+](#).

SOLUTION: Democrats are calling for a robust, multi-year surface transportation bill, which would create millions of new jobs and strengthen our economy. The [GROW AMERICA Act \(H.R. 3064\)](#) is a long-term infrastructure bill, providing \$478 billion for infrastructure investments over the next 6 years. Democrats are calling for a significant down payment in funding for the bill by stopping corporations from renouncing their U.S. citizenship to avoid paying their fair share of taxes, a move that would raise \$41 billion.

★ JOB TRAINING ★

PROBLEM: To meet the growing skills gap facing American workers and businesses, more workers need to have the skills and training necessary to meet the needs of the private sector, emerging industries and the entrepreneurial spirit of our great nation.

SOLUTION: House Democrats believe that education is the greatest investment a family can make in its children and that a nation can make in its future. We will invest in education and innovative platforms to equip our workers with the skills and training they need for the jobs of tomorrow.

★ STUDENT LOAN DEBT & COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY ★

PROBLEM: The rising cost of college is pricing many out of fulfilling their potential and burdening generations of Americans, young and old, with a crippling level of student loan debt. Over 43 million Americans are working to repay \$1.3 trillion in student loans. Student loan debt has nearly quadrupled in the last 10 years and now comprises the second largest form of consumer debt behind mortgages. The average student loan debt is nearly \$30,000, and approximately one-third of all student loan dollars issued through the Federal Direct Loan program are in default, forbearance, or deferment.

SOLUTION: Democrats are fighting to reduce the crushing burden of student loan debt for families and address the cost of college. **The Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act (H.R. 1434)** would enable borrowers to refinance their federal and private student loans and lock in lower interest rates. This student loan refinancing bill could help up to 24 million federal student loan borrowers refinance their existing student loans to lower rates and could also help millions of private student loan borrowers refinance their loans to lower rates. Enabling borrowers to refinance their loans at today's lower interest rates would save students and families billions.

★ PAY EQUITY ★

PROBLEM: More than half a century after the enactment of the Equal Pay Act, full-time working women earn just 80 cents, on average, for every dollar a man earns, amounting to a yearly gap of \$10,470 between full-time working men and women. According to the [National Women's Law Center](#), the median family in America could purchase all this with this yearly gap of \$10,470: three months' supply of groceries (\$1,943), three months' rent and utilities (\$2,594), three months' child care payments (\$2,364), three months' health insurance premiums (\$1,178), six months' student loan payments (\$1,998), and nine tanks of gas (\$393).

SOLUTION: Democrats are committed to making pay equity the law of the land so that women and men get equal pay for equal work by passing the **Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 1619)**. The existing legal tools available to remedy gender-based pay discrimination are not enough, which is why the Paycheck Fairness Act is so badly needed. Every single Member of the House Democratic Caucus is a cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act – all 193 members – and more than 300 advocacy groups support the legislation.

★**SECURE RETIREMENT**★

PROBLEM: Our nation is facing a retirement crisis. Social Security was designed to be one leg of a three-legged stool – along with defined benefit pensions and retirement savings. But defined pensions have become rare and the median household nearing retirement has just \$10,000 to \$20,000 put away – making Social Security even more important for a secure retirement. However, House Republicans have a long history of proposing policies that cut Social Security benefits and shift costs to seniors – jeopardizing the sacred guarantee that has protected the retirements and independence of millions and millions of Americans through the decades.

SOLUTION: Democrats are committed to strengthening and expanding Social Security for older Americans who have earned their benefits through a lifetime of hard work; disabled workers and their families so they can continue to meet their basic needs; and those who are surviving the loss of a loved one. 119 House Democrats have cosponsored [H. Res. 393](#), introduced by Illinois Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, in support of policies to protect and expand Social Security and secure its long-term future in a fair and responsible manner.