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Activities and Summary Report on the House Committee on Education and Labor: 117th Congress

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117TH CONGRESS }
1st Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{ REPORT
117-700

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND LABOR
FOR THE
117TH CONGRESS
together with
MINORITY VIEWS



JANUARY 1, 2023.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on
the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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WASHINGTON : 2023

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

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BRAD FINSTAD, Minnesota
JOSEPH SEMPOLINSKI, New York

VÉRONIQUE PLUVIOSE, *Majority Staff Director*
CYRUS ARTZ, *Minority Staff Director*

February 4, 2021—Marjorie Taylor Greene, Georgia, was removed from the Committee.
February 7, 2021—Ron Wright, Texas, deceased.
February 3, 2021—John A. Yarmuth, Kentucky, was appointed to the Committee.
February 3, 2021—Adriano Espailat, New York, was appointed to the Committee.
February 11, 2021—Kweisi Mfume, Maryland, was appointed to the Committee.
April 14, 2021—Julia Letlow, Louisiana, was appointed to the Committee.
January 25, 2022—Gregory Murphy, North Carolina, resigned from the Committee.
February 2, 2022—John A. Yarmuth, Kentucky, resigned from the Committee.
February 2, 2022—Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, Florida, was appointed to the Committee.
March 1, 2022—Chris Jacobs, New York, was appointed to the Committee.
May 12, 2022—Julia Letlow, Louisiana, resigned from the Committee.
September 13, 2022—Brad Finstad, Minnesota, was appointed to the Committee.
September 13, 2022—Joseph Sempolinski, New York, was appointed to the Committee.
September 14, 2022—Joseph D. Morelle, New York, resigned from the Committee.
September 29, 2022—Mary Sattler Peltola, Alaska, was appointed to the Committee.
November 17, 2022—Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, Florida, resigned from the Committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION

GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, Northern Mariana Islands, *Chair*

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ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, Virginia	VIRGINIA FOXX, North Carolina, <i>Ex Officio</i>
<i>Vacancy</i>	

February 2, 2022—John A. Yarmuth, Kentucky, resigned from the Subcommittee.

February 16, 2022—Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, Florida, was appointed to the Subcommittee.

March 16, 2022—Chris Jacobs, New York, was appointed to the Subcommittee.

April 20, 2021—Julia Letlow, Louisiana, was appointed to the Subcommittee.

May 12, 2022—Julia Letlow, Louisiana, resigned from the Subcommittee.

September 14, 2022—Joseph D. Morelle, New York, resigned from the Subcommittee.

September 15, 2022—Joseph Sempolinski, New York, was appointed to the Subcommittee.

November 17, 2022—Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, Florida, resigned from the Subcommittee.

November 17, 2022—Mary Sattler Peltola, Alaska, was appointed to the Subcommittee.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT

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TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ, New Mexico	JIM BANKS, Indiana
MONDAIRE JONES, New York	JAMES COMER, Kentucky
KATHY E. MANNING, North Carolina	RUSS FULCHER, Idaho
JAMAAL BOWMAN, New York	BOB GOOD, Virginia
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SUZANNE BONAMICI, Oregon	
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, Virginia, <i>Ex Officio</i>	

April 20, 2021—Julia Letlow, Louisiana, was appointed to the Subcommittee.

January 25, 2022—Gregory Murphy, North Carolina, resigned from the Subcommittee.

February 16, 2022—Mariannette Miller-Meeks, Iowa, was appointed Minority Ranking Member of the Subcommittee.

March 16, 2022—Chris Jacobs, New York, was appointed to the Subcommittee.

May 12, 2022—Julia Letlow, Louisiana, resigned from the Subcommittee.

September 15, 2022—Brad Finstad, Minnesota, was appointed to the Subcommittee.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

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MARY SATTTLER PELTOLA, Alaska	SCOTT FITZGERALD, Wisconsin
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, Virginia,	VIRGINIA FOXX, North Carolina, <i>Ex Officio</i>

Ex Officio

September 14, 2022—Joseph D. Morelle, New York, resigned from the Subcommittee.

November 17, 2022—Mary Sattler Peltola, Alaska, was appointed to the Subcommittee.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS

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ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, Virginia	MICHELE STEEL, California
	VIRGINIA FOXX, North Carolina, <i>Ex Officio</i>

February 2, 2022—John A. Yarmuth, Kentucky, resigned from the Subcommittee.

February 16, 2022—Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, Florida, was appointed to the Subcommittee.

November 17, 2022—Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, Florida, resigned from the Subcommittee.

November 17, 2022—Mary Sattler Peltola, Alaska, was appointed to the Subcommittee.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN SERVICES

SUZANNE BONAMICI, Oregon, *Chair*

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KWEISI MFUME, Maryland	SCOTT FITZGERALD, Wisconsin
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, Virginia,	VIRGINIA FOXX, North Carolina, <i>Ex Officio</i>

Ex Officio

March 11, 2021—Kweisi Mfume, Maryland, was appointed to the Subcommittee.

March 11, 2021—Victoria Spartz, Indiana, was appointed to the Subcommittee.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 1, 2023.

Hon. CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk of the House,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. JOHNSON: Pursuant to rule XI, clause 1(d) of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I am hereby transmitting the Activities Report of the Committee on Education and Labor for the 117th Congress. This report summarizes the activities of the Committee and its Subcommittees with respect to its legislative and oversight responsibilities.

I circulated this report to all Members of the Committee on December 15, 2022, and I received the Minority Views included in this report.

Sincerely,

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT,
Chairman.

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Union Calendar No. 516

117TH CONGRESS }
1st Session } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
117-700

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR DURING THE 117TH CONGRESS

JANUARY 1, 2023.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. SCOTT, from the Committee on Education and the Workforce,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

INTRODUCTION

Representative Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), Chair of the House Committee on Education and Labor (Committee), is committed to building an America where everyone can succeed, not just the wealthy few.

During the 117th Congress, the Committee—with the leadership of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee Chair Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Northern Mariana Islands), Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee Chair Frederica S. Wilson (FL), Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee Chair Mark DeSaulnier (CA), Workforce Protections Subcommittee Chair Alma S. Adams (NC), and Civil Rights and Human Services Subcommittee Chair Suzanne Bonamici (OR)—followed research and evidence to improve the lives of children, students, workers, families, and retirees.

One of the Committee’s most significant achievements occurred with the enactment of the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*, which touched nearly every corner of the Committee’s jurisdiction through education, labor, and health policy. Among other victories, this historic relief package delivered the largest, one-time federal investment in K–12 education in the nation’s history—targeted toward schools with the greatest need—to help students recover from the

COVID–19 pandemic; rescued the child care system from the brink of collapse; helped reduce hunger among households with children by more than 40 percent in less than six months; and delivered a solution to the multiemployer pension crisis that saved the pensions of over one million workers and protected thousands of businesses from closing.

In total, the Committee held 61 hearings and passed 30 bills to achieve equity in education, expand access to affordable health care, and create safe and inclusive workplaces where workers can earn a living wage and collectively bargain. What follows is an overview of what the Committee accomplished in the 117th Congress in each policy area within its jurisdiction.

Achieving Equity in Education

In the 117th Congress, the Committee advanced legislation that secured urgent relief for students, schools, and families, confronted the racial and economic resegregation of public K–12 education, and rebuilt America’s crumbling public schools.

Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act (H.R. 730) restores the right of students and parents to hold schools accountable for discrimination in education. [*Ordered reported out of Committee on July 15, 2021*]

Strength in Diversity Act (H.R. 729) supports school districts in developing, implementing, or expanding voluntary initiatives to increase diversity in schools. [*Ordered reported out of Committee on July 15, 2021*]

Consider Teachers Act (S. 848) fixes a broken system that improperly burdened teachers with loans. [*Enacted on October 13, 2021*]

Joint Consolidation Loan Separation Act (S. 1098) allows borrowers with uncommunicative or abusive spouses or former spouses to escape a financial connection with them by severing joint consolidation federal student loans into two separate federal direct student loans. [*Enacted on October 11, 2022*]

School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act (H.R. 5428) lays the groundwork necessary to provide uniform data on school shootings to policymakers and the public, allowing them to better measure the impact of policy solutions at the state and federal levels. [*Ordered reported out of Committee on March 16, 2022*]

Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act of 2022 (H.R. 604) invests in high-poverty schools with facilities that pose health and safety risks to students and staff, creates over 2 million construction jobs, and expands schools’ access to high-speed broadband. [*Ordered reported out of Committee on May 18, 2022*]

Fostering Safe and Inclusive Workplaces

In the 117th Congress, the Committee advanced legislation to increase wages, promote the right to collectively bargain, and protect workers from injury and discrimination.

National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 (H.R. 447) creates nearly one million new Registered Apprenticeship, youth apprenticeship, and pre-apprenticeship positions to help workers access in-demand jobs across a wide range of industries. [*Passed the House on February 5, 2021*]

Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act of 2021 (H.R. 842) protects workers' right to organize and bargain for higher pay, better benefits, and safer working conditions. *[Passed the House on March 9, 2021]*

Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R. 1195) provides health care and social service workers with the workplace protections they deserve. *[Passed the House on April 16, 2021]*

Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 7) addresses pay inequity by holding companies accountable for gender-based wage disparities, strengthening the Equal Pay Act of 1963, and protecting the rights of workers to challenge systemic pay discrimination. *[Passed the House on April 15, 2021]*

Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (H.R. 1065) establishes a pregnant worker's clear-cut right to reasonable workplace accommodations, provided they do not impose an undue burden on the employer. *[Passed the House on May 14, 2021; enacted (substantially similar text was included) on December 23, 2022, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023]*

Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act of 2021 (H.R. 2062) restores legal protections for older workers so they can hold employers accountable for age discrimination. *[Passed the House on June 23, 2021]*

Providing Urgent Maternal Protections (PUMP) for Nursing Mothers Act (H.R. 3110) expands and strengthens workplace protections for nursing mothers so they have the time and privacy to pump at work. *[Passed the House on October 22, 2021; enacted (provisions were included) on December 23, 2022, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023]*

Protect Older Job Applicants (POJA) Act of 2021 (H.R. 3992) clarifies that older job applicants are protected from age discrimination under federal law. *[Passed the House on November 4, 2021]*

Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2022 (H.R. 6102) helps disabled miners overcome barriers to the compensation and benefits for black lung disease that they are entitled to receive. *[Ordered reported out of Committee on March 16, 2022]*

Longshore and Harbor Workers' COVID-19 Compensation Act of 2022 (H.R. 3114) makes it easier for maritime workers who were diagnosed with COVID-19 to access the workers' compensation they deserve. *[Ordered reported out of Committee on March 16, 2022]*

Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2022 (H.R. 2954) makes commonsense improvements to ensure that the retirement system better serves workers, retirees, and employers. *[Passed the House on March 29, 2022, previously reported out of Committee as Retirement Improvement and Savings Enhancement (RISE) Act (H.R. 5891); enacted (provisions were included) on December 23, 2022, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023]*

Protecting America's Retirement Security Act (H.R. 7310) makes commonsense improvements to the retirement system to protect workers' retirement savings and support families and employers. *[Ordered reported out of Committee on April 5, 2022; enacted (provisions were included) on December 23, 2022, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023]*

Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2022 (H.R. 2499) improves access to injury and illness benefits for federal firefighters. *[Passed the House on May 11, 2022; enacted (substantially similar text was included) on December 23, 2022, as part of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023]*

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022 (H.R. 7309) invests in the workforce development system to meet the needs of workers and businesses, fill job openings with qualified workers, reduce supply chain shortage, and lower costs for families. *[Passed the House on May 17, 2022]*

Wage Theft Prevention and Wage Recovery Act (H.R. 7701) ensures a worker's right to be paid all legally owed wages and holds unscrupulous employers accountable for violating the Fair Labor Standards Act. *[Ordered reported out of Committee on May 18, 2022]*

Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act (H.R. 6087) expands federal employees' access to workers' compensation by restoring their choice of medical provider. *[Passed the House on June 7, 2022]*

Asunción Valdivia Heat Illness and Fatality Prevention Act of 2022 (H.R. 2193) helps protect indoor and outdoor workers against occupational exposure to excessive heat by requiring employers to provide paid breaks in cool spaces, access to water, limitations on time exposed to heat, and other life-saving measures. *[Ordered reported out of Committee on July 27, 2022]*

Susan Muffley Act of 2022 (H.R. 6929) restores Delphi pension plan benefits for thousands of retirees. *[Passed the House on July 27, 2022]*

Bridging the Gap for New Americans Act (S. 3157) commissions a study to help the U.S. Department of Labor better assist refugees and immigrants in finding a rewarding career. *[Enacted on October 17, 2022]*

Promoting Healthy Communities and Increasing Access to Health Care

In the 117th Congress, the Committee advanced legislation to expand access to quality, affordable health care coverage, address and prevent child hunger, and improve access to mental health services.

Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (H.R. 485) addresses the recent rise in child abuse and neglect by funding networks of prevention services that are designed to strengthen families and improve the quality of child protective services. *[Passed the House on March 16, 2021]*

Family Violence Prevention Services Improvement Act (H.R. 2119) refocuses and enhances federal investments to prevent intimate partner violence and support survivors. *[Passed the House on October 26, 2021]*

Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act of 2022 (H.R. 5129) strengthens the Community Services Block Grant program to help local organizations reduce poverty in their communities. *[Passed the House on May 13, 2022]*

Access to Baby Formula Act (H.R. 7791) provides flexibility to allow families to use their WIC benefits to purchase safe and avail-

able infant formula products in response to the infant formula shortage. *[Enacted on May 21, 2022]*

Campus Prevention and Recovery Services for Students Act of 2022 (H.R. 6493) updates and improves efforts to prevent substance misuse on campuses. *[Passed the House on June 23, 2022]*

Enhancing Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act (H.R. 5407) requires the U.S. Department of Education to encourage institutions of higher education to develop and implement evidence-based comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans. *[Passed the House on June 23, 2022]*

Keep Kids Fed Act (S. 2089) provides children with healthy meals over the summer and ensures that schools and daycares can respond to supply chain challenges and high food costs during the school year. *[Enacted on June 25, 2022]*

Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act (H.R. 8450) helps address and prevent child hunger through a comprehensive, science-driven reauthorization of federal child nutrition programs that meets the needs of children and families. *[Ordered reported out of Committee on November 07, 2022; enacted (provisions were included) on December 23, 2022, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023]*

Mental Health Matters Act (H.R. 7780) takes wide-ranging steps to support the behavioral health of children and school staff, strengthen school-based behavioral health care, and ensure access to mental health and substance use disorder benefits for workers and families. *[Passed the House on November 29, 2022]*

Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (H.R. 5376) takes historic steps to reduce the cost of health insurance, lower the cost of prescription drugs, create millions of good-paying jobs, make the most significant investment to address climate change in our history, and dramatically reduce the deficit. *[Enacted on August 16, 2022, previously marked up and transmitted out of Committee to comply with the Reconciliation Directive included in Section 2002 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022, S. Con. Res. 14]*

Conducting Oversight and Requiring Accountability

The Committee rigorously exercised its Article I oversight authority through dozens of letters, meetings, and public hearings. *[Discussed in detail in the report section titled “Oversight Plan Summary and Activity”]*

Conclusion

In the 118th Congress, the Committee will continue to put people over politics. The Committee will work with our colleagues across the aisle and the Biden Administration to address longstanding inequities in education and provide quality educational opportunities; expand access to quality and affordable health care; and promote safe and inclusive workplaces where workers can earn a living wage and collectively bargain. The Committee will also push for robust oversight on behalf of students, families, and workers.

HEARINGS HELD BY THE FULL COMMITTEE

April 20, 2021—Hearing titled “For-Profit College Conversions: Examining Ways to Improve Accountability and Prevent Fraud.”

Purpose: To provide Committee members the opportunity to better understand the findings in a U.S. Government Accountability Office report on for-profit college conversions and the harm “covert for-profits” cause students and taxpayers.

Witnesses: Ms. Melissa Emrey-Arras, Director of Higher Education, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Boston, MA; Ms. Yan Cao, Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation, New York, NY; Mr. Brian Galle, Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC; and Dr. Andrew Gillen, Senior Policy Analyst, Texas Public Policy Foundation, Austin, TX.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

April 22, 2021—Hearing titled “Members Day Hearing: Committee on Education and Labor.”

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for non-Committee Members to inform the Committee of their interests and priorities as they relate to the Committee’s jurisdiction pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Witnesses: Oral testimony provided by the Honorable Mary Gay Scanlon, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Swarthmore, PA; and the Honorable James Langevin, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Warwick, RI. Written testimony provided by the Honorable J. French Hill, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Little Rock, AR; the Honorable Brenda Lawrence, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Southfield, MI; the Honorable Angie Craig, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Eagan, MN; the Honorable Matt Cartwright, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Moosic, PA; and the Honorable Steve Cohen, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Memphis, TN.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

April 28, 2021—Hearing titled “Building Back Better: Investing in Improving Schools, Creating Jobs, and Strengthening Families and our Economy.”

Purpose: To examine President Biden’s American Jobs Plan (AJP) and American Families Plan (AFP), proposals which encompass a multi-year plan to transform the economy through infrastructure investment, job training, and addressing climate change. The hearing received testimony on proposals to expand child care, rebuild unsafe school buildings in areas of greatest need, help workers develop in-demand skills to prepare for rewarding careers, and update community college infrastructure.

Witnesses: Mr. Rasheed Malik, Senior Policy Analyst, Center for American Progress, Washington, DC; Dr. Neal McCluskey, Director, Cato Institute’s Center for Educational Freedom, Washington, DC; Mr. Mark Mitsui, President, Portland Community College; Portland, OR; Mr. Bob Lanter, Executive Director, California Workforce Association, Sacramento, CA; Mr. Brian Riedl, Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute, New York, NY; and Ms. Mary

Filardo, Executive Director, 21st Century School Fund, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 9, 2021—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

Witness: The Honorable Martin Walsh, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 16, 2021—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

Witness: The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 24, 2021—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Education as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

Witness: The Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

December 1, 2021—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Corporation for National and Community Service.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the Corporation for National and Community Service, including financial management concerns identified by the agency’s auditors.

Witnesses: The Honorable Deborah Jeffrey, Inspector General, Corporation for National and Community Service, Washington, DC; and Mr. Malcolm Coles, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

April 6, 2022—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2023.

Witness: The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 26, 2022—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Education as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2023.

Witness: The Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 14, 2022—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2023.

Witness: The Honorable Martin Walsh, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

September 14, 2022—Hearing titled “In Solidarity: Removing Barriers to Organizing.”

Purpose: To examine the increase in worker organizing activity across the country, the factors driving this activity, the need to increase funding for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to handle the spike in this activity, and the need to enact the *Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act* (H.R. 842).

Witnesses: Dr. Kate Bronfenbrenner, Director of Labor Education Research and Senior Lecturer, Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Ithaca, NY; Mr. Mark Pearce, Visiting Professor and Executive Director of the Workers’ Rights Institute, Georgetown University, Washington, DC; Mr. Roger King, Senior Labor and Employment Policy Counsel, HR Policy Association, Arlington, VA; and Ms. Michelle Eisen, Barista, Starbucks, Buffalo, NY.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

MARKUPS AND OTHER BUSINESS MEETINGS HELD BY THE FULL COMMITTEE

February 8, 2021—Full Committee Organizational Meeting to introduce new Members of the Committee; consider and adopt the Rules of the Committee for the 117th Congress; approve the Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members as well as approve the assignment of Members to Subcommittees; and share the Committee Oversight Plan for the 117th Congress.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via Cisco Webex Meetings.

February 9, 2021—Markup of Committee Print to comply with the reconciliation directive included in section 2001(b) of S. Con. Res. 5, the concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2021 and setting forth the appropriate budgeting levels for fiscal years 2022 through 2030.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: The Committee Print was ordered to be favorably transmitted to the House Committee on the Budget, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: Transmitted on February 16, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via Cisco Webex Meetings.

March 11, 2021—Meeting to approve new Subcommittee assignments.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 24, 2021—Markup of H.R. 7, the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT)

Disposition: H.R. 7 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 25 Yeas and 22 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–13 was filed on April 5, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 24, 2021—Markup of H.R. 1065, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY)

Disposition: H.R. 1065 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 30 Yeas and 17 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–27 (Part I) was filed on May 4, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 24, 2021—Markup of H.R. 1195, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Joe Courtney (CT)

Disposition: H.R. 1195 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 20 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–14 (Part I) was filed on April 5, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

April 20, 2021—Meeting to approve new Subcommittee assignments.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 26, 2021—Markup of H.R. 3110, the Providing Urgent Maternal Protections (PUMP) for Nursing Mothers Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Carolyn Maloney (NY)

Disposition: H.R. 3110 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 28 Yeas and 19 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–102 was filed on July 22, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 26, 2021—Markup of H.R. 2062, the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act of 2021 (POWADA).

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: H.R. 2062 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 29 Yeas and 18 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–63 was filed on June 17, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 15, 2021—Markup of H.R. 2119, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021.

Sponsor: Rep. Lucy McBath (GA)

Disposition: H.R. 2119 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 26 Yeas and 20 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–126 was filed on September 23, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 15, 2021—Markup of H.R. 3992, the Protect Older Job Applicants (POJA) Act of 2021.

Sponsor: Rep. Sylvia Garcia (TX)

Disposition: H.R. 3992 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 26 Yeas and 19 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–127 was filed on September 23, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 15, 2021—Markup of H.R. 729, the Strength in Diversity Act of 2021.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: H.R. 729 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 19 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–176 was filed on November 23, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 15, 2021—Markup of H.R. 730, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2021.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: H.R. 730 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 19 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–177 (Part I) was filed on November 23, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 9, 2021—Markup of Committee Print to comply with reconciliation directive included in section 2002(b) of S. Con. Res. 14, a concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2022 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2023 through 2031.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: The Committee Print was ordered to be favorably transmitted to the House Committee on the Budget, as amended, by a vote of 28 Yeas and 22 Nays.

Committee Report: Transmitted on September 14, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

November 10, 2021—Markup of H.R. 5891, the Retirement Improvement and Savings Enhancement (RISE) Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: H.R. 5891 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by voice vote.

Committee Report: House Report 117–250 (Part I) was filed on February 25, 2022.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

February 16, 2022—Meeting to approve new Subcommittee assignments.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 16, 2022—Meeting to approve new Subcommittee assignments.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 16, 2022—Markup of H.R. 6102, the Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2021.

Sponsor: Rep. Matt Cartwright (PA)

Disposition: H.R. 6102 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 28 Yeas and 22 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–589 (Part I) was filed on December 2, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

March 16, 2022—Markup of H.R. 5129, the Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (OR)

Disposition: H.R. 5129 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 35 Yeas and 14 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–311 was filed on May 6, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

March 16, 2022—Markup of H.R. 2499, the Federal Fire Fighters Fairness Act of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Salud Carbajal (CA)

Disposition: H.R. 2499 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 31 Yeas and 18 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–306 was filed on May 6, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

March 16, 2022—Markup of H.R. 5428, the School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL)

Disposition: H.R. 5428 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–307 was filed on May 6, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

March 16, 2022—Markup of H.R. 3114, the Longshore and Harbor Workers' COVID-19 Compensation Act of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Frank Mrvan (IN)

Disposition: H.R. 6102 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117-526 was filed on September 29, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

March 16, 2022—Markup of H.R. 6087, the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Joe Courtney (CT)

Disposition: H.R. 6087 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by voice vote.

Committee Report: No Committee Report filed.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

April 5, 2022—Markup of H.R. 7309, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA)

Disposition: H.R. 7309 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 29 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117-321 was filed on May 12, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

April 5, 2022—Markup of H.R. 7310, the Protecting America's Retirement Security Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Lucy McBath (GA)

Disposition: H.R. 7310 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 29 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117-557 (Part I) was filed on November 14, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 18, 2022—Markup of H.R. 604, the Rebuild America's Schools Act (RASA) of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA)

Disposition: H.R. 604 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 19 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117-607 (Part I) was filed on December 7, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 18, 2022—Markup of H.R. 7701, the Wage Theft Prevention and Wage Recovery Act of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT)

Disposition: H.R. 7701 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 19 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–540 was filed on October 7, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 18, 2022—Markup of H.R. 5407, the Enhancing Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Susan Wild (PA)

Disposition: H.R. 5407 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by voice vote.

Committee Report: House Report 117–383 was filed on June 23, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 18, 2022—Markup of H.R. 6493, the Campus Prevention and Recovery Services for Students Act of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (NM)

Disposition: H.R. 6493 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by voice vote.

Committee Report: House Report 117–384 was filed on June 23, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 18, 2022—Markup of H.R. 7780, the Mental Health Matters Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA)

Disposition: H.R. 7780 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 26 Yeas 18 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–484 was filed on September 22, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

July 27, 2022—Markup of H.R. 2193, the Asunción Valdivia Heat Illness and Fatality Prevention Act of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Judy Chu (CA)

Disposition: H.R. 2193 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 19 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–547 was filed on November 7, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

July 27, 2022—Markup of H.R. 8450, the Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: H.R. 8450 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 20 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–548 was filed on November 7, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

September 15, 2022—Meeting to approve new Subcommittee assignments.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 15, 2022—Markup of H. Res. 1295, Of inquiry directing the Secretary of Education to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the Department of Education’s cost estimates for the Secretary’s waivers related to public service loan forgiveness and income-driven repayment.

Sponsor: Rep. Virginia Foxx (NC)

Disposition: H. Res. 1295 was ordered to be reported adversely to the House, as amended, by a vote of 28 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–549 was filed on November 10, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

September 15, 2022—Markup of H. Res. 1296, Of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Education to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the legal authority to forgive Federal student loan debt.

Sponsor: Rep. Virginia Foxx (NC)

Disposition: H. Res. 1296 was ordered to be reported adversely to the House, as amended, by a vote of 28 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–550 was filed on November 10, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

September 15, 2022—Markup of H. Res. 1273, Of inquiry directing the President to provide certain documents in the President’s possession to the House of Representatives relating to communication between the executive branch and the American Federation of Teachers regarding reopening schools and supporting safe, in-person learning.

Sponsor: Rep. John Joyce (PA)

Disposition: H. Res. 1273 was ordered to be reported adversely to the House, as amended, by a vote of 28 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–539 was filed on September 30, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

November 17, 2022—Meeting to approve new Subcommittee assignments.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

HEARINGS HELD BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD,
ELEMENTARY, AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

March 25, 2021—Hearing titled “Lessons Learned: Charting the Path to Educational Equity Post-COVID-19.”

Purpose: To examine how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted communities and discuss the most effective methods of ensuring the nation’s public schools reopen and recover equitably.

Witnesses: Mr. Mark H. Morial, President and CEO, National Urban League, New York, NY; Mrs. Jennifer Dale, Parent, Lake Oswego, OR; Ms. Selene A. Almazan, Esq., Legal Director, Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc., Towson, MD; and Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Miami, FL.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 6, 2021—Hearing titled “Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Students with Disabilities.”

Purpose: To examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students with disabilities and needed steps to support their educational recovery, life skills development, and social-emotional well-being.

Witnesses: Mr. Ronald M. Hager, Managing Attorney, National Disability Rights Network, Washington, DC; Ms. Kanika A. Littleton, Project Director, Michigan Alliance for Families, Lansing, MI; Mr. Reade Bush, Parent, Arlington, VA; and Dr. Danielle M. Kovach, Special Education Teacher, Tulsa Trail Elementary School, Hopatcong Board of Education, Hopatcong, NJ.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 19, 2021—Hearing titled “Picking up the Pieces: Strengthening Connections with Students Experiencing Homelessness and Children in Foster Care.”

Purpose: To examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the educational experiences of children and students experiencing homelessness and children and students in foster care and the ways in which the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* will support these populations.

Witnesses: Ms. Jennifer Erb-Downward, MPH, Senior Research Associate, Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI; Ms. Michelle Linder-Coates, Executive Director, School District of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA; Ms. Gretchen Davis, foster parent, Arlington, VA; and Dr. James F. Lane, Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia Department of Education, Richmond, VA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 29, 2021—Hearing titled “Back to School: Highlighting Best Practices for Safely Reopening School.”

Purpose: To examine how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the return to school for the 2021–2022 school year.

Witnesses: Dr. Jesus Jara, Superintendent of Schools, Clark County School District, Las Vegas, NV; Ms. Denise Forte, Interim Chief Executive Officer, The Education Trust, Washington, DC; Mr. David Zweig, Freelance Journalist, New York, NY; and Dr. Ashish

Jha, Dean and Professor of Health Services, Policy and Practice, Brown University School of Public Health, Providence, RI.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

November 17, 2021—Hearing titled “Examining the Implementation of COVID–19 Education Funds” (held jointly with the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment).

Purpose: To hear from senior U.S. Department of Education officials about the management and oversight of the Education Stabilization Fund (ESF).

Witnesses: Ms. Cindy Marten, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC; and Mr. James Kvaal, Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

February 16, 2022—Hearing titled “Serving All Students: Promoting a Healthier, More Supportive School Environment.”

Purpose: To examine outdated discipline practices and to highlight evidence-based practices that schools can implement to create healthy school environments that support students’ social, emotional, and academic development.

Witnesses: Mr. Guy Stephens, Founder and Executive Director, Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint, Lusby, MD; Ms. Morgan Craven, National Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Community Engagement, Intercultural Development Research Association, San Antonio, TX; Mr. Max Eden, Research Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC; and Ms. Kristen Harper, Vice President for Public Policy and Engagement, Child Trends, Laurel, MD.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 24, 2022—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Bureau of Indian Education” (held jointly with the Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous People of the United States) (hearing was adjourned before witness testimony or Member questions due to technical difficulties; subcommittees agreed to conduct a second hearing and include an additional witness).

Purpose: To examine the role of the Bureau of Indian Education in serving American Indian and Alaskan Native students.

Witness: Mr. Tony Dearman, Director, Bureau of Indian Education, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 28, 2022—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Bureau of Indian Education” (held jointly with the Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous People of the United States) (this hearing was a follow-up to the hearing on May 24, 2022, above).

Purpose: To examine the role of the Bureau of Indian Education in serving American Indian and Alaskan Native students.

Witnesses: Ms. Beth Sirois, Assistant Director, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; and Mr. Tony Dearman, Director, Bureau of Indian Education, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 20, 2022—Hearing titled “Back to School: Meeting Students’ Academic, Social, and Emotional Needs.”

Purpose: To examine how states and school districts are approaching pandemic recovery this school year, including efforts to leverage evidence-based interventions to close achievement gaps exacerbated by the pandemic, as well as meet students’ social and emotional needs.

Witnesses: Ms. Phyllis Jordan, Associate Director, FutureEd, Washington, DC; Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, President and CEO, Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, Fairfax Station, VA; Dr. Penny Schwinn, Tennessee Commissioner of Education, Tennessee Department of Education, Nashville, TN; and Dr. Matthew Blomstedt, Commissioner of Education, Nebraska Department of Education, Lincoln, NE.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

HEARINGS HELD BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
AND WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

March 17, 2021—Hearing titled “Rising to the Challenge: The Future of Higher Education Post COVID-19.”

Purpose: To examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on institutions of higher education and students and to highlight the need for additional Administration and congressional action.

Witnesses: Mr. Keith Thornton, Jr., Student, Florida International University, Miami, FL; Mr. Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor, California Community Colleges, Corona Del Mar, CA; Dr. Lindsey Burke, Director, Center for Education Policy, and Mark A. Kolokotronis Fellow in Education, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC; and Mr. Daniel Zibel, Vice President and Chief Counsel, National Student Legal Defense Network, Takoma Park, MD.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 13, 2021—Hearing titled “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Reauthorization: Creating Opportunities for Youth Employment.”

Purpose: To examine how the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) currently serves the needs of in-school and out-of-school youth and what changes are needed to improve WIOA’s youth services as part of reauthorization.

Witnesses: Ms. Chekemma Townsend, President and CEO, Philadelphia Youth Network, Philadelphia, PA; Mr. Thomas Showalter, Senior Advisor, National Youth Employment Coalition, Washington, DC; Ms. Deb Lindner, Human Resources Manager, Precor, Whitsett, NC; and Mr. Byron Garret, President and CEO, National Job Corps Association, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 27, 2021—Hearing titled “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Reauthorization: Creating Employment Pathways for Dislocated Workers.”

Purpose: To examine how the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) currently serves the needs of dislocated workers

and to consider improvements to improve outcomes for dislocated workers through the reauthorization of WIOA.

Witnesses: Mr. Joseph Barela, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Denver, CO; Mr. PJ McGrew, Executive Director, Indiana Governor’s Workforce Cabinet, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Matt Sigelman, Chief Executive Officer, Burning Glass Technologies, Boston, MA; and Ms. Portia Wu, Managing Director, U.S. Public Policy, U.S. Government Affairs, Microsoft Corporation, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 15, 2021—Hearing titled “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Reauthorization: Examining Successful Models of Employment for Justice-Involved Individuals.”

Purpose: To examine how the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) currently serves the needs of justice-involved individuals and what changes are needed to improve the scope and effectiveness of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Reentry Opportunities Program through the reauthorization of WIOA.

Witnesses: Ms. Traci Scott, Vice President of Workforce Development Division, National Urban League, New York, NY; Mr. Gregg Keesling, President, DBA Recycle Force Workforce, Inc., Indianapolis, IN; Dr. Pamela Lattimore, Senior Director for Research Development, Division for Applied Justice Research, RTI International, Durham, NC; and Ms. Wendi Safstrom, Executive Director, SHRM Foundation, Alexandria, VA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 20, 2021—Hearing titled “Care for Our Communities: Investing in the Direct Care Workforce” (held jointly with the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions).

Purpose: To examine the unmet need for direct care workers as well as the difficulty in recruiting, retaining, supporting, and training this critical and in-demand workforce; to discuss issues related to wages, Medicaid reimbursement rates, and working conditions; and to consider the role of the *Direct CARE Opportunity Act* (H.R. 2999) in addressing the problems identified.

Witnesses: Mr. Robert Espinoza, Vice President of Policy, PHI, Bronx, NY; Ms. Zulma Torres, Home Health Aide, Cooperative Home Care Associates, Waterbury, CT; Mr. Paul Burani, Head of Business Development, North America Udacity, Inc., Mountain View, CA; and the Honorable Jessica Fay, State Representative, Maine House of Representatives, Raymond, ME.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 29, 2021—Hearing titled “Keeping the Pell Grant Promise: Increasing Enrollment, Supporting Success.”

Purpose: To examine trends related to low enrollment of Pell Grant eligible students at four-year public institutions, best institutional and research-based practices to increase enrollment and success, and how proposed federal policies will support and advance these efforts.

Witnesses: Dr. Justin Ortagus, Associate Professor, Higher Education Administration and Policy, and Director, Institute of Higher Education, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL; Dr. Robert Jones,

Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL; Dr. Michael Poliakoff, President, American Council of Trustees and Alumni, Washington, DC; and Ms. Darleny Suriel, Student, City College of New York, Bronx, NY.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 30, 2021—Hearing titled “Protecting Students and Taxpayers: Improving the Closed School Discharge Process.”

Purpose: To hear testimony from the U.S. Government Accountability Office about its findings related to the closed school discharge process and to provide Committee members the opportunity to better understand potential improvements to the closed school discharge process to protect students harmed by school closures.

Witnesses: Ms. Melissa Emrey-Arras, Director of Higher Education, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Boston, MA; Ms. Karyn Rhodes, Student Borrower, Torrance, CA; Mr. Preston Cooper, Research Fellow, Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, Washington, DC; and Ms. Robyn Smith, Senior Attorney, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

October 6, 2021—Hearing titled “Homecoming: The Historical Roots and Continued Contributions of HBCUs.”

Purpose: To explore the important and unique role that Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) play in the higher education landscape, the historical background that sets these institutions apart, challenges created by systemic underfunding of the sector, and the ongoing need for federal support.

Witnesses: Dr. Lezli Baskerville, President and CEO, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, Washington, DC; Dr. Glenda Glover, President, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN; Mrs. Angela Sailor, Vice President, The Edwin J. Feulner Institute, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC; and Dr. Andre Perry, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institute, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

October 27, 2021—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Office of Federal Student Aid.”

Purpose: To explore the plans of the Office of Federal Student Aid within the U.S. Department of Education in overseeing institutions of higher education and enforcing compliance with the requirements for participation in programs authorized under title IV of the *Higher Education Act of 1965*.

Witness: The Honorable Richard Cordray, Chief Operating Officer, Office of Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

November 17, 2021—Hearing titled “Examining the Implementation of COVID–19 Education Funds” (held jointly with the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education).

Purpose: To hear from senior U.S. Department of Education officials about the management and oversight of the Education Stabilization Fund.

Witnesses: Ms. Cindy Marten, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC; and Mr. James Kvaal, Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 2, 2022—Hearing titled “Investing in Economic Mobility: The Important Role of Hispanic Serving Institutions and Other Minority Serving Institutions.”

Purpose: To explore the important role that Minority Serving Institutions play in higher education, their ongoing need for federal support, and their implementation of federally-funded grant activities.

Witnesses: Dr. José Luis Cruz Rivera, President, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ; Dr. Patricia Ramsey, President, Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn, NY; Dr. Janine Davidson, President, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Denver, CO; and Dr. Robert Teranishi, Professor of Education and Morgan and Helen Chu Endowed Chair in Asian American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, CA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 19, 2022—Hearing titled “The History and Continued Contributions of Tribal Colleges and Universities.”

Purpose: The purpose of this hearing is to explore the important and unique role that Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) play in the higher education landscape, including the historical background that sets these institutions apart from a policy standpoint, their accomplishments, the important role these institutions play in their communities, and their ongoing need for federal support.

Witnesses: Ms. Carrie Billy, President and CEO, American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Alexandria, VA; Dr. Cynthia Lindquist, President, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Fort Totten, ND; Dr. Beth Akers, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC; and Dr. Sandra Boham, President, Salish Kootenai College, Pablo, MT. (Dr. Lindquist was unable to provide oral testimony, but her written statement was made part of the hearing record via unanimous consent.)

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

December 14, 2022—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Corporation for National and Community Service.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the Corporation for National and Community Service, including financial management concerns identified by the agency’s auditors.

Witnesses: The Honorable Deborah Jeffrey, Inspector General, Corporation for National and Community Service, Washington, DC;

and Mr. Michael Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

HEARINGS HELD BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

April 15, 2021—Hearing titled “Meeting the Moment: Improving Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Care.”

Purpose: To address barriers to access to behavioral health care, particularly limited coverage of mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and the importance of improving enforcement of mental health parity laws.

Witnesses: Dr. Brian Smedley, Chief of Psychology in the Public Interest, American Psychological Association, Washington, DC; Dr. Christine Yu Moutier, Chief Medical Officer, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, New York, NY; Mr. James Gelfand, Senior Vice President, Health Policy, The ERISA Industry Committee, Washington, DC; and Dr. Meiram Bendat, Founder, Psych-Appeal, Santa Barbara, CA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 5, 2021—Hearing titled “Lower Drug Costs Now: Expanding Access to Affordable Health Care.”

Purpose: To explore the rising cost of prescription drugs in the United States and the impact of high drug prices on workers and businesses.

Witnesses: Dr. Mariana P. Socal, Assistant Scientist, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD; Mr. David Mitchell, Founder, Patients for Affordable Drugs Now, Bethesda, MD; Dr. Douglas Holtz-Eakin, President, American Action Forum, Washington, DC; and Mr. Frederick Isasi, Executive Director, Families USA, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 23, 2021—Hearing titled “Examining Pathways to Build a Stronger, More Inclusive Retirement System.”

Purpose: To examine the challenges facing retirement savers and explore options for congressional action to increase access to sustainable retirement income for categories of workers historically excluded from participation in retirement savings programs.

Witnesses: Dr. Teresa Ghilarducci, Irene and Bernard L. Schwartz Professor of Economics and Policy Analysis, The New School for Social Research, New York, NY; Dr. Nari Rhee, Director, Retirement Security Program, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA; Dr. Andrew Biggs, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC; and Mr. David Certner, Legislative Counsel and Legislative Policy Director, AARP, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 20, 2021—Hearing titled “Care for Our Communities: Investing in the Direct Care Workforce” (held jointly with the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment).

Purpose: To examine the unmet need for direct care workers as well as the difficulty in recruiting, retaining, supporting, and training this critical and in-demand workforce; to discuss issues related to wages, Medicaid reimbursement rates, and working conditions; and to consider the role of the *Direct CARE Opportunity Act* (H.R. 2999) in addressing the problems identified.

Witnesses: Mr. Robert Espinoza, Vice President of Policy, PHI, Bronx, NY; Ms. Zulma Torres, Home Health Aide, Cooperative Home Care Associates, Waterbury, CT; Mr. Paul Burani, Head of Business Development, North America Udacity, Inc., Mountain View, CA; and the Honorable Jessica Fay, State Representative, Maine House of Representatives, Raymond, ME.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 28, 2021—Hearing titled “How to Save a Life: Successful Models for Protecting Communities from COVID-19” (held jointly with the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services).

Purpose: To address barriers to COVID-19 vaccine and testing access and highlight resources provided by the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* to increase vaccination rates and make testing more available in underserved communities.

Witnesses: Dr. Leana Wen, Research Professor, The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, and Distinguished Fellow, Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity, Washington, DC; Dr. Viviana Martinez-Bianchi, Director of Health Equity and Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC; Mr. Avik Roy, President, The Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, Washington, DC; and Dr. Chris Pernell, Chief Strategic Integration and Health Equity Officer, University Hospital, Newark, NJ.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

November 4, 2021—Hearing titled “Closing the Courthouse Doors: The Injustice of Forced Arbitration Agreements.”

Purpose: To examine the impacts of forced arbitration and collective action waivers on workers’ ability to enforce their rights under federal employment laws and to consider H.R. 4841, the *Restoring Justice for Workers Act*, a bill to make forced arbitration provisions and collective action waivers unenforceable in employment cases and to make the use of those provisions unlawful under the *National Labor Relation Act*.

Witnesses: Dr. Alexander Colvin, Kenneth F. Kahn Dean and Martin F. Scheinman Professor of Conflict Resolution, Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Ithaca, NY; Ms. Glenda Perez, former Implementation Set-Up Representative, Cigna, Ruskin, FL; Mr. Roger King, Senior Labor and Employment Counsel, HR Policy Association, Arlington, VA; and Ms. Kalpana Kotagal, Partner, Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll, PLLC, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

February 17, 2022—Hearing titled “Exploring Pathways to Affordable, Universal Health Coverage.”

Purpose: To examine the need for and proposals to achieve universal health coverage in the United States.

Witnesses: The Honorable Robert B. Reich, Chancellor’s Professor of Public Policy, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA; Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, MD, Executive Director, American Public Health Association, Washington, DC; Dr. Brian Blase, President, Paragon Health Institute, Ponte Vedra, FL; and Ms. Katie Keith, Visiting Professor and Director of the Health Policy and the Law Initiative, O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 1, 2022—Hearing titled “Improving Retirement Security and Access to Mental Health Benefits.”

Purpose: To examine ways to strengthen access to retirement security and mental health benefits.

Witnesses: Ms. Amy Matsui, Director of Income Security and Senior Counsel, National Women’s Law Center, Washington, DC; Ms. Karen Handorf, Senior Counsel, Berger Montague, Alexandria, VA; Mr. Andrew Biggs, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC; and Mr. Aron Szapiro, Head of Retirement Studies and Public Policy, Morningstar, Inc. and Morningstar Investment Management LLC, Chicago, IL.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 21, 2022—Hearing titled “Examining the Administration of the Unemployment Insurance System.”

Purpose: To hear testimony from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) about its findings related to the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) implementation of the temporary pandemic unemployment insurance (UI) programs, GAO’s inclusion of the regular UI system on its High Risk List, and steps DOL and Congress can take to make improvements to the administration of the UI system.

Witnesses: Mr. Thomas Costa, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Team, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; Ms. Rebecca Dixon, Executive Director, National Employment Law Project, Washington, DC; Mr. Matt Weidinger, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC; and Ms. Veronica Robinson, individual affected by one of the temporary pandemic UI programs, Philadelphia, PA.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

HEARINGS HELD BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS

March 11, 2021—Hearing titled “Clearing the Air: Science-Based Strategies to Protect Workers from COVID-19 Infections.”

Purpose: To evaluate the best methods to protect workers from airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19; to evaluate the need to strengthen Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards and Centers for Disease Con-

trol and Prevention Guidance to protect workers; and to establish a national strategy to measure the health impact on workers from the COVID–19 pandemic.

Witnesses: Dr. Linsey Marr, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA; Ms. Pascaline Muhindura, Registered Nurse, COVID Progressive Care Unit, Research Medical Center, Kansas City, MO; Mr. Manesh Rath, Partner, Keller and Heckman LLP, Washington, DC; and Dr. David Michaels, former Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Professor of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 18, 2021—Hearing titled “Fighting for Fairness: Examining Legislation to Confront Workplace Discrimination” (held jointly with the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services).

Purpose: To consider three pieces of legislation to protect the civil rights of workers in the workplace: H.R. 1065, the *Pregnant Workers Fairness Act*; H.R. 7, the *Paycheck Fairness Act*; and H.R. 2062, the *Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act*.

Witnesses: Ms. Laurie McCann, Senior Attorney, AARP Foundation, Washington, DC; Ms. Dina Bakst, Co-Founder and Co-President, A Better Balance, New York, NY; Ms. Camille A. Olson, Partner, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Chicago, IL; and Ms. Fatima Goss Graves, President and CEO, National Women’s Law Center, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 3, 2021—Hearing titled “From Excluded to Essential: Tracing the Racist Exclusion of Farmworkers, Domestic Workers, and Tipped Workers from the Fair Labor Standards Act.”

Purpose: To examine the negative economic and social impacts of excluding farmworkers, domestic workers, and tipped workers from the full protections of the *Fair Labor Standards Act*, their exclusion having been rooted in the racist design of the legislation, and to consider congressional action to remedy the exclusion of these groups of workers.

Witnesses: Ms. Rebecca Dixon, Executive Director, National Employment Law Project, Washington, DC; Mr. Paul DeCamp, Member, Epstein Becker & Green, P.C., Washington, DC; Ms. Teresa Romero, President, United Farm Workers, Lancaster, CA; and Ms. Haeyoung Yoon, Senior Policy Director, National Domestic Workers Alliance, New York, NY.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 21, 2021—Hearing titled “Phasing Out Subminimum Wages: Supporting the Transition to Competitive Integrated Employment for Workers with Disabilities” (held jointly with the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services).

Purpose: To consider H.R. 2723, the *Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act*, a bill that would phase out the subminimum wage for workers with disabilities and authorize funding to states and employers to transition workers with disabilities to competitive integrated employment.

Witnesses: Ms. Nantanee Koppstein, Member, New Jersey State-wide Independent Living Council, Princeton Junction, NJ; Mr. John Anton, Legislative Specialist, Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress, Haverhill, MA; Dr. Matthew Putts, CEO, Employment Horizons, Inc., Cedar Knolls, NJ; and Mr. Anil Lewis, Executive Director for Blindness Initiatives, National Federation of the Blind, Baltimore, MD.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

October 26, 2021—Hearing titled “Protecting Lives and Livelihoods: Vaccine Requirements and Employee Accommodations” (held jointly with the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services).

Purpose: To examine the civil rights and accommodations issues regarding employer vaccination policies, and to assess the policy issues related to the impending Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s Emergency Temporary Standard that calls for employers with 100 or more employees to require employees to receive vaccination against COVID–19 or undergo routine testing.

Witnesses: Dr. Sidney Shapiro, Frank U. Fletcher Chair in Administrative Law and Professor of Law, Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC; Ms. Richelle T. Luther, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, Columbia Sportswear Company, Portland, OR; Mr. Scott Hecker, Senior Counsel, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Washington, DC; and Dr. Doron Dorfman, Associate Professor of Law, Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, NY.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

December 2, 2021—Hearing titled “Strengthening the Safety Net for Injured Workers.”

Purpose: To assess the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs; to assess the need for management reforms to the black lung benefits self-insurance program; and to consider four pieces of legislation to strengthen federal workers’ compensation programs—H.R. 2499, the *Federal Firefighters Fairness Act*; H.R. 3314, the *Longshore and Harbor Workers’ COVID–19 Compensation Act of 2021*; H.R. 6102, the *Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2021*; and H.R. 6087, the *Improving Access to Workers’ Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act*.

Witnesses: Panel I—The Honorable Salud Carbajal, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Santa Barbara, CA. Panel II—Mr. Christopher Godfrey, Director, Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC; and Mr. Thomas Costa, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 11, 2022—Hearing titled “Standing Up for Workers: Preventing Wage Theft and Recovering Stolen Wages.”

Purpose: To examine the negative impacts of wage theft on workers and honest businesses as well as consider the *Wage Theft Pre-*

vention and Wage Recovery Act (H.R. 7701), which would deter wage theft and help workers seek justice to recover lost wages.

Witnesses: Ms. Karen Cacace, Labor Bureau Chief, The New York State Office of the Attorney General, New York, NY; Mr. Daniel Swenson-Klatt, Owner and Operator, Butter Bakery Café, Minneapolis, MN; Ms. Tammy McCutcheon, Senior Affiliate, Resolution Economics, Washington, DC; and Mr. Francisco Esparza, Representative, United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Upper Marlboro, MD.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 25, 2022—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Witnesses: The Honorable Douglas Parker, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC; and Mr. Thomas Costa, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 20, 2022—Hearing titled “Second Class Workers: Assessing H2 Visa Programs” Impact on Workers.”

Purpose: To examine the H-2A and H-2B visa programs and the U.S. Department of Labor’s role in enforcing the labor standards in these programs.

Witnesses: Mr. Daniel Costa, Director of Immigration Law and Policy Research, Economic Policy Institute, Washington, DC; Ms. Teresa Romero, President, United Farm Workers, Keene, CA; Mr. Leon Sequera, Attorney, Arlington, VA; and Mr. Ty Pinkins, Consumer Protection Attorney, Mississippi Center for Justice, Vicksburg, MS.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

July 28, 2022—Hearing titled “Essential but Undervalued: Examining Workplace Protections for Domestic Workers.”

Purpose: To examine the role domestic workers play in our nation’s households and economy and their exclusion from labor law protections, and to consider the *Domestic Workers Bill of Rights Act* (H.R. 4826), which would provide protections for domestic workers.

Witnesses: Ms. Ai-Jen Poo, President, National Domestic Workers Alliance, New York, NY; Dr. C. Nicole Mason, President and CEO, Institute for Women’s Policy Research, Washington, DC; Mr. Paul DeCamp, Member, Epstein Becker Green, Washington, DC; and Ms. Dana Barnett, Washington State Organizer, Hand in Hand: the Domestic Employers Network, Seattle, WA.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

September 7, 2022—Hearing titled “Children at Risk: Examining Workplace Protections for Child Farmworkers.”

Purpose: To examine workplace protections for child farmworkers.

Witnesses: Ms. Margaret Wurth, Senior Children’s Rights Researcher, Human Rights Watch, Tarrytown, NY; Dr. Barbara Lee, Director/Senior Research Scientist, National Children’s Center for Rural and Agriculture Health and Safety, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, Marshfield, WI; Ms. Kristi Boswell, Counsel, Alston & Bird LLP, Washington, DC; and Ms. Norma Flores López, Committee Chair, Child Labor Coalition, San Juan, TX.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

November 17, 2022—Hearing entitled “Unsafe and Untenable: Examining Workplace Protections for Warehouse Workers.”

Purpose: To examine the workplace safety crisis in warehouses and employers’ responsibility to protect the health and safety of workers.

Witnesses: Mr. Sheheryar Kaoosji, Executive Director, Warehouse Workers Resource Center, Ontario, CA; Mr. Eric Frumin, Director of Health and Safety, Strategic Organizing Center, New York, NY; Mr. Manesh K. Rath, Partner, Keller & Heckman, Washington, DC; and Ms. Janeth Caicedo, sister of Edilberto Caicedo, a warehouse worker who died on the job, Elizabeth, NJ.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

HEARINGS HELD BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN SERVICES

March 18, 2021—Hearing titled “Fighting for Fairness: Examining Legislation to Confront Workplace Discrimination” (held jointly with the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections).

Purpose: To consider three pieces of legislation to protect the civil rights of workers in the workplace: H.R. 1065, the *Pregnant Workers Fairness Act*; H.R. 7, the *Paycheck Fairness Act*; and H.R. 2062, the *Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act*.

Witnesses: Ms. Laurie McCann, Senior Attorney, AARP Foundation, Washington, DC; Ms. Dina Bakst, Co-Founder and Co-President, A Better Balance, New York, NY; Ms. Camille A. Olson, Partner, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Chicago, IL; and Ms. Fatima Goss Graves, President and CEO, National Women’s Law Center, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 22, 2021—Hearing titled “Ending the Cycle: Examining Ways to Prevent Domestic Violence and Promote Healthy Communities.”

Purpose: To discuss ways to update and strengthen the *Family Violence Prevention and Services Act* to prevent and address intimate partner violence.

Witnesses: Mrs. Vanessa Timmons, Executive Director, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Portland, OR; Ms. Wendy I. Schlater, Vice Chair, La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians, Pauma Valley, CA; Ms. Ami Novoryta, Chief Program Officer,

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Chicago, IL; and Dr. Elizabeth Miller, Director, Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 12, 2021—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 as they relate to federal child nutrition programs.

Witness: Ms. Stacy Dean, Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 10, 2021—Hearing titled “Ending Child Hunger: Priorities for Child Nutrition Reauthorization.”

Purpose: To examine legislative solutions to end child hunger and discuss how Congress can bolster proven strategies to feed hungry children.

Witnesses: Mr. Michael Wilson, Director, Maryland Hunger Solutions, Baltimore, MD; Ms. Crystal Cooper, Executive Director, Nutrition Support Services, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL; Mr. Brandon Lipps, Principal, Caprock Strategies, Alexandria, VA; and Mr. Tom Colicchio, Chef and Owner, Crafted Hospitality, New York, NY.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 21, 2021—Hearing titled “Phasing Out Subminimum Wages: Supporting the Transition to Competitive Integrated Employment for Workers with Disabilities” (held jointly with the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections).

Purpose: To consider H.R. 2723, the *Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act*, a bill that would phase out the subminimum wage for workers with disabilities and authorize funding to states and employers to transition workers with disabilities to competitive integrated employment.

Witnesses: Ms. Nantanee Koppstein, Member, New Jersey Statewide Independent Living Council, Princeton Junction, NJ; Mr. John Anton, Legislative Specialist, Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress, Haverhill, MA; Dr. Matthew Putts, CEO, Employment Horizons, Inc., Cedar Knolls, NJ; and Mr. Anil Lewis, Executive Director for Blindness Initiatives, National Federation of the Blind, Baltimore, MD.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 28, 2021—Hearing titled “Food for Thought: Examining Federal Nutrition Programs for Young Children and Infants.”

Purpose: To examine federal child nutrition and related programs that support young children and opportunities to strengthen these laws.

Witnesses: Ms. Teresa L. Turner, Nutritionist, Child and Youth Services, United States Army, Glen Burnie, MD; Ms. Paula N. Gar-

rett, Division Director, Division of Community Nutrition, Virginia Department of Health, Richmond, VA; Mr. Trevor Farrell, Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer, Americas, Schreiber Foods, Inc., Green Bay, WI; and Mrs. Jessica Burris, North Carolina WIC Participant and Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, WIC Department, Montgomery County Department of Health, Troy, NC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 28, 2021—Hearing titled “How to Save a Life: Successful Models for Protecting Communities from COVID-19” (held jointly with the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions).

Purpose: To address barriers to COVID-19 vaccine and testing access and highlight resources provided by the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* to increase vaccination rates and make testing more available in underserved communities.

Witnesses: Dr. Leana Wen, Research Professor, The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, and Distinguished Fellow, Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity, Washington, DC; Dr. Viviana Martinez-Bianchi, Director of Health Equity and Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC; Mr. Avik Roy, President, The Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, Washington, DC; and Dr. Chris Pernell, Chief Strategic Integration and Health Equity Officer, University Hospital, Newark, NJ.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

October 26, 2021—Hearing titled “Protecting Lives and Livelihoods: Vaccine Requirements and Employee Accommodations” (held jointly with the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections).

Purpose: To examine the civil rights and accommodations issues regarding employer vaccination policies, and to assess the policy issues related to the impending Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s Emergency Temporary Standard that calls for employers with 100 or more employees to require employees to receive vaccination against COVID-19 or undergo routine testing.

Witnesses: Dr. Sidney Shapiro, Frank U. Fletcher Chair in Administrative Law and Professor of Law, Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC; Ms. Richelle T. Luther, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, Columbia Sportswear Company, Portland, OR; Mr. Scott Hecker, Senior Counsel, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Washington, DC; and Dr. Doron Dorfman, Associate Professor of Law, Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, NY.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

November 3, 2021—Hearing titled “A Call to Action: Modernizing the Community Services Block Grant.”

Purpose: To examine reauthorization of the Community Services Block Grant.

Witnesses: Mr. David Bradley, Chief Executive Officer, National Community Action Foundation, Fredericksburg, VA; Ms. Sharon Scott-Chandler, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Action for Boston Community Development, Inc., Natick, MA;

Mr. Clarence Carter, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Human Services, Nashville, TN; and Ms. Katherine King Galian, Director of Family and Community Resources, Community Action, Hillsboro, OR.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

April 27, 2022—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2023.

Witnesses: The Honorable Charlotte Burrows, Chair, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington, DC; and Ms. Jenny Yang, Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 17, 2022—Hearing titled “Examining Ways to Improve the Juvenile Justice System and Support America’s Young People.”

Purpose: To examine the current state of the juvenile justice and child welfare residential care systems by assessing the risk factors that lead to out-of-home placement, exploring treatment and service options for youth in these systems, and evaluating the role of federal funding.

Witnesses: Ms. Lisette Burton, Chief Policy and Practice Advisor, Association of Children’s Residential and Community Services (ACRC), Milwaukee, WI; Mr. A. Hasan Davis, Founder/Director, Hasan Davis Solutions L.L.C., Lexington, KY; Mr. Alan Loux, President and CEO, Rawhide Youth Services, New London, WI; and Dr. Karen Kolivoski, Associate Professor, Howard University School of Social Work, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

June 23, 2022—Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2023.

Witness: Ms. Cindy Long, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

September 8, 2022—Hearing titled “An Ounce of Prevention: Investments in Juvenile Justice Programs.”

Purpose: To examine the links between sustained investments in delinquency prevention and intervention programs and improved outcomes for young people and their communities.

Witnesses: Dr. Stephanie Hawkins, Founding Director, Transformative Research Unit for Equity (TRUE), RTI International, Re-

search Triangle Park, NC; Ms. Naomi Smoot Evans, Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice, Washington, DC; Fr. Steven Boes, National Executive Director, Boys Town, Boys Town, NE; and Mr. David Muhammad, Executive Director, National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, Oakland, CA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

LEGISLATION REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE THAT PASSED
THE HOUSE

- H.R. 1, the *For the People Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. John Sarbanes (MD), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 210 Nays on March 3, 2021.
- H.R. 5, the *Equality Act*, sponsored by Rep. David Cicilline (RI), passed the House by a vote of 224 Yeas and 206 Nays on February 25, 2021.
- H.R. 6, the *American Dream and Promise Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA), passed the House by a vote of 228 Yeas and 197 Nays on March 18, 2021.
- H.R. 7, the *Paycheck Fairness Act*, sponsored by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT), passed the House by a vote of 217 Yeas and 210 Nays on April 15, 2021.
- H.R. 447, the *National Apprenticeship Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), passed the House by a vote of 247 Yeas and 173 Nays on February 5, 2021.
- H.R. 485, the *Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), passed the House by a vote of 345 Yeas and 73 Nays under suspension of the rules on March 16, 2021.
- H.R. 842, the *Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), passed the House by a vote of 225 Yeas and 206 Nays on March 9, 2021.
- H.R. 1065, the *Pregnant Workers Fairness Act*, sponsored by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY), passed the House by a vote of 315 Yeas and 101 Nays on May 14, 2021.
- H.R. 1195, the *Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act*, sponsored by Rep. Joe Courtney (CT), passed the House by a vote of 254 Yeas and 166 Nays on April 16, 2021.
- H.R. 1433, the *Helen Keller National Center Reauthorization Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Mark Pocan (WI), passed the House under suspension of the rules pursuant to section 2 of H. Res. 1361, sponsored by Rep. Ed Perlmutter (CO), which passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 205 Nays, and a motion offered by Rep. Steny Hoyer (MD), on September 20, 2022.
- H.R. 1456, the *Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. John Garamendi (CA), passed the House by a vote of 290 Yeas and 125 Nays under suspension of the rules on September 19, 2022.
- H.R. 1603, the *Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Zoe Lofgren (CA), passed the House by a vote of 247 Yeas and 174 Nays on March 18, 2021.
- H.R. 1620, the *Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX), passed the House by a vote of 244 Yeas and 172 Nays on March 17, 2021.

- H.R. 1916, the *Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act*, sponsored by Rep. Anna Eshoo (CA), passed the House by a vote of 310 Yeas and 110 Nays under suspension of the rules on April 4, 2022.
- H.R. 2062, the *Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), passed the House by a vote of 247 Yeas and 178 Nays on June 23, 2021.
- H.R. 2116, the *Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ), passed the House by a vote of 235 Yeas and 189 Nays on March 18, 2022.
- H.R. 2119, the *Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Lucy McBath (GA), passed the House by a vote of 228 Yeas and 200 Nays on October 26, 2021.
- H.R. 2499, the *Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Salud Carbajal (CA), passed the House by a vote of 288 Yeas and 131 Nays on May 11, 2022.
- H.R. 2954, the *Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Richard Neal (MA), passed the House by a vote of 414 Yeas and 5 Nays under suspension of the rules on March 29, 2022.
- H.R. 3110, the *PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act*, sponsored by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (NY), passed the House by a vote of 276 Yeas and 149 Nays on October 22, 2021.
- H.R. 3617, the *Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act*, sponsored by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 204 Nays on April 1, 2022.
- H.R. 3992, the *POJA Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Sylvia Garcia (TX), passed the House by a vote of 224 Yeas and 200 Nays on November 4, 2021.
- H.R. 4118, the *Break the Cycle of Violence Act*, sponsored by Rep. Steven Horsford (NV), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 207 Nays on September 22, 2022.
- H.R. 4616, the *Adjustable Interest Rate (LIBOR) Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Brad Sherman (CA), passed the House by a vote of 415 Yeas and 9 Nays under suspension of the rules on December 8, 2021.
- H.R. 5129, the *Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (OR), passed the House by a vote of 246 Yeas and 169 Nays on May 13, 2022.
- H.R. 5407, the *Enhancing Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act*, sponsored by Rep. Susan Wild (PA), passed the House by a vote of 405 Yeas and 16 Nays under suspension of the rules on June 23, 2022.
- H.R. 5715, *To reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes*, sponsored by Rep. Raúl Grijalva (AZ), passed the House by voice vote under suspension of the rules on December 12, 2022.
- H.R. 6087, the *Improving Access to Workers’ Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act*, sponsored by Rep. Joe Courtney (CT), passed the House by a vote of 325 Yeas and 83 Nays under suspension of the rules on June 7, 2022.

- H.R. 6493, the *Campus Prevention and Recovery Services for Students Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (NM), passed the House by a vote of 371 Yeas and 49 Nays under suspension of the rules on July 23, 2022.
- H.R. 6552, the *Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Christopher Smith (NJ), passed the House by a vote of 401 Yeas and 20 Nays under suspension of the rules on July 26, 2022.
- H.R. 6833, the *Affordable Insulin Now Act*, sponsored by Rep. Angie Craig (MN), passed the House by a vote of 232 Yeas and 193 Nays on March 31, 2022.
- H.R. 6929, the *Susan Muffley Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Dan Kildee (MI), passed the House by a vote of 254 Yeas and 175 Nays on July 27, 2022.
- H.R. 7309, the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 196 Nays on May 17, 2022.
- H.R. 7688, the *Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Prevention Act*, sponsored by Rep. Kim Schrier (WA), passed the House by a vote of 217 Yeas and 207 Nays on May 19, 2022.
- H.R. 7780, the *Mental Health Matters Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 205 Nays on September 29, 2022.
- H.R. 7791, the *Access to Baby Formula Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Jahana Hayes (CT), passed the House by a vote of 414 Yeas and 9 Nays under suspension of the rules on May 18, 2022.
- H. Con. Res. 70, *Condemning threats of violence against historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and reaffirming support for HBCUs and their students*, sponsored by Rep. Alma Adams (NC), passed the House by a vote of 418 Yeas and 0 Nays under suspension of the rules on March 8, 2022.
- H. Res. 1096, *Approving certain regulations to implement provisions of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 relating to labor-management relations with respect to employees of the House of Representatives covered under section 220(e) of the Act, and for other purposes*, sponsored by Rep. Andy Levin (MI), pursuant to H. Res. 1097, sponsored by Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD), is considered passed by the House by a vote of 217 Yeas and 202 Nays on May 10, 2022.

LEGISLATION REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE THAT PASSED THE
HOUSE IN ANOTHER MEASURE

- H.R. 3, the *Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act*, sponsored by Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ), as part of H.R. 5376, the *Build Back Better Act*, sponsored by Rep. John Yarmuth (KY), passed the House by a vote of 217 Yeas and 105 Nays on November 19, 2021 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 447, the *National Apprenticeship Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), as part of H.R. 4521, the *America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), passed the House

- by a vote of 222 Yeas and 210 Nays on February 4, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 636, the *Promoting Apprenticeship through Regional Training Networks for Employers Required Skills (PARTNERS) Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (OR), as part of H.R. 4521, the *America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), passed the House by a vote of 222 Yeas and 210 Nays on February 4, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 1065, the *Pregnant Workers Fairness Act*, sponsored by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY), as part of H.R. 2617, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA), on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment, passed the House by a vote of 225 Yeas, 201 Nays, and 1 Present on December 23, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 1364, the *Parity Enforcement Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Donald Norcross (NJ), as part of H.R. 5376, the *Build Back Better Act*, sponsored by Rep. John Yarmuth (KY), passed the House by a vote of 217 Yeas and 105 Nays on November 19, 2021 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 1364, the *Parity Enforcement Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Donald Norcross (NJ), as part of H.R. 7780, the *Mental Health Matters Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 205 Nays on September 29, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 1814, the *Civics Secures Democracy Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT), as part of H.R. 4521, the *America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), passed the House by a vote of 222 Yeas and 210 Nays on February 4, 2022 (substantially similar text of some provisions were included).
- H.R. 2030, the *College Transparency Act*, sponsored by Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL), as part of H.R. 4521, the *America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), passed the House by a vote of 222 Yeas and 210 Nays on February 4, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 2037, the *Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Andy Levin (MI), as part of H.R. 4521, the *America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), passed the House by a vote of 222 Yeas and 210 Nays on February 4, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 2459, the *Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills (BUILDS) Act*, sponsored by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (OR), as part of H.R. 4521, the *America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), passed the House by a vote of 222 Yeas

- and 210 Nays on February 4, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 2499, the *Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Salud Carbajal (CA), as part of H.R. 7776, the *James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Peter DeFazio (OR), pursuant to H. Res. 1512, sponsored by Rep. Adam Smith (WA), the House agreed to the Senate amendment with an amendment, passed the House by a vote of 350 Yeas and 80 Nays on December 8, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 2817, the *Child Care for Working Families Act*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), as part of H.R. 5376, the *Build Back Better Act*, sponsored by Rep. John Yarmuth (KY), passed the House by a vote of 217 Yeas and 105 Nays on November 19, 2021 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 2940, the *Advancing International and Foreign Language Education Act*, sponsored by Rep. David Price (NC), as part of H.R. 4521, the *America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), passed the House by a vote of 222 Yeas and 210 Nays on February 4, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 2954, the *Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Richard Neal (MA), as part of H.R. 2617, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA), on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment, passed the House by a vote of 225 Yeas, 201 Nays, and 1 Present on December 23, 2022 (provisions were included).
- H.R. 2999, the *Direct Creation, Advancement, and Retention of Employment (CARE) Opportunity Act*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), as part of H.R. 5376, the *Build Back Better Act*, sponsored by Rep. John Yarmuth (KY), passed the House by a vote of 217 Yeas and 105 Nays on November 19, 2021 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 3110, the *PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act*, sponsored by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (NY), as part of H.R. 2617, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA), on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment, passed the House by a vote of 225 Yeas, 201 Nays, and 1 Present on December 23, 2022 (provisions were included).
- H.R. 3519, the *Stop Child Hunger Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Mike Levin (CA), as part of H.R. 5376, the *Build Back Better Act*, sponsored by Rep. John Yarmuth (KY), passed the House by a vote of 217 Yeas and 105 Nays on November 19, 2021 (provisions were included).
- H.R. 3519, the *Stop Child Hunger Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Mike Levin (CA), as part of H.R. 2617, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA), on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment, passed the House by a vote of 225 Yeas, 201 Nays, and 1 Present on December 23, 2022 (provisions were included).

- H.R. 3572, the *Increasing Access to Mental Health in Schools Act*, sponsored by Rep. Judy Chu (CA), as part of H.R. 7780, the *Mental Health Matters Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 205 Nays on September 29, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 3729, the *Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa College Access Act*, sponsored by Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Northern Mariana Islands), as part of H.R. 5376, the *Build Back Better Act*, sponsored by Rep. John Yarmuth (KY), passed the House by a vote of 217 Yeas and 105 Nays on November 19, 2021 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 4379, the *School Food Modernization Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA), as part of H.R. 5376, the *Build Back Better Act*, sponsored by Rep. John Yarmuth (KY), passed the House by a vote of 217 Yeas and 105 Nays on November 19, 2021 (provisions were included).
- H.R. 4786, the *RISE Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (OR), as part of H.R. 7780, the *Mental Health Matters Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 205 Nays on September 29, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 6214, the *Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act*, sponsored by Rep. Katherine Clark (MA), as part of H.R. 7780, the *Mental Health Matters Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 205 Nays on September 29, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 6509, the *Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA), as part of H.R. 7780, the *Mental Health Matters Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 205 Nays on September 29, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 6553, the *AI Jobs Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Darren Soto (FL), as part of H.R. 4521, the *America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), passed the House by a vote of 222 Yeas and 210 Nays on February 4, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 7310, the *Protecting America's Retirement Security Act*, sponsored by Rep. Lucy McBath (GA), as part of H.R. 2617, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA), on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment, passed the House by a vote of 225 Yeas, 201 Nays, and 1 Present on December 23, 2022 (provisions were included).
- H.R. 7318, the *Navigating to Success Act*, sponsored by Rep. Joaquin Castro (TX), as part of H.R. 7309, the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 196 Nays on May 17, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 7342, the *Diversifying Paths to Apprenticeships Act*, sponsored by Rep. Donald Norcross (NJ), as part of H.R. 7309, the *Work-*

- force Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 196 Nays on May 17, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 7347, the *Supporting Jobs through Evidence and Innovation Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mikie Sherrill (NJ), as part of H.R. 7309, the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 196 Nays on May 17, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 7370, the *Student Mental Health Rights Act*, sponsored by Rep. Katie Porter (CA), as part of H.R. 7780, the *Mental Health Matters Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 205 Nays on September 29, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 7381, the *YouthBuild for the Future Act*, sponsored by Rep. Jahana Hayes (CT), as part of H.R. 7309, the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 196 Nays on May 17, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 7385, the *TRAIN Act*, sponsored by Rep. Lucy McBath (GA), as part of H.R. 7309, the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 196 Nays on May 17, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 7390, the *Expanding Labor Representation in the Workforce System Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mikie Sherrill (NJ), as part of H.R. 7309, the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 196 Nays on May 17, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 7392, the *Strengthening Job Corps Act of 2022*, sponsored by Frederica Wilson (FL), as part of H.R. 7309, the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 196 Nays on May 17, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 7740, the *Employee and Retiree Access to Justice Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA), as part of H.R. 7780, the *Mental Health Matters Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 205 Nays on September 29, 2022 (the text was included).
- H.R. 7748, the *Community-Based Workforce Development Act*, sponsored by Rep. Susie Lee (NV), as part of H.R. 7309, the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 196 Nays on May 17, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).
- H.R. 7767, the *Strengthening Behavioral Health Benefits Act*, sponsored by Rep. Joe Courtney (CT), as part of H.R. 7780, the *Mental Health Matters Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 205 Nays on September 29, 2022 (provisions were included).

- H.R. 7784, the *Supporting Trauma-Informed Education of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Jahana Hayes (CT), as part of H.R. 7780, the *Mental Health Matters Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 205 Nays on September 29, 2022 (the text was included).
- H.R. 8150, the *Keep Kids Fed Act*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), as part of S. 2089, the *Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022*, sponsored by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (NH), passed the House by a vote of 376 Yeas and 42 Nays on June 23, 2022 (the text was included).
- H.R. 8450, the *Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA), as part of H.R. 2617, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA), on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment, passed the House by a vote of 225 Yeas, 201 Nays, and 1 Present on December 23, 2022 (provisions were included).
- H.R. 8887, *To direct the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to establish an occupational research program on mental health*, sponsored by Rep. Frank Mrvan (IN), as part of H.R. 7780, the *Mental Health Matters Act*, sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 205 Nays on September 29, 2022 (the text was included).
- H.R. 9028, the *21st Century Assistive Technology Act*, sponsored by Rep. DeSaulnier (CA), as part of H.R. 7776, the *James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Peter DeFazio (OR), pursuant to H. Res. 1512, sponsored by Rep. Adam Smith (WA), the House agreed to the Senate amendment with an amendment, passed the House by a vote of 350 Yeas and 80 Nays on December 8, 2022 (substantially similar text was included).

LEGISLATION WITHIN COMMITTEE JURISDICTION NOT REFERRED TO
THE COMMITTEE THAT PASSED THE HOUSE

- H.R. 1319, the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. John Yarmuth (KY), passed the House by a vote of 219 Yeas and 212 Nays on February 27, 2021. On a motion to agree to the Senate amendment, H.R. 1319 passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 211 Nays on March 10, 2021.
- H.R. 2617, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA), passed the House by a vote of 225 Yeas, 201 Nays, and 1 Present on December 23, 2022.
- H.R. 4350, the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022*, passed the House by a vote of 316 Yeas and 113 Nays on September 23, 2021.
- H.R. 5305, the *Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act*, sponsored by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT), passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 211 Nays on September 21, 2021. On a motion to agree to the Senate amendment, H.R. 5305 passed the House by a vote of 254 Yeas and 175 Nays on September 30, 2021.
- H.R. 5376, the *Build Back Better Act*, sponsored by Rep. John Yarmuth (KY), passed the House by a vote of 217 Yeas and 105 Nays on November 19, 2021. On a motion to agree to the Senate amendment, H.R. 5376, the *Inflation Reduction Act of*

- 2022, passed the House by a vote of 220 Yeas and 207 Nays on August 12, 2022.
- H.R. 7666, the *Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ), passed the House by a vote of 402 Yeas and 20 Nays on June 22, 2022.
- H.R. 7776, the *James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Peter DeFazio (OR), pursuant to H. Res. 1512, sponsored by Rep. Adam Smith (WA), the House agreed to the Senate amendment with an amendment, passed the House by a vote of 350 Yeas and 80 Nays on December 8, 2022.
- S. 848, the *Consider Teachers Act of 2021*, sponsored by Sen. Mike Braun (IN), passed the House by a vote of 406 Yeas and 16 Nays under suspension of the rules on September 28, 2021.
- S. 989, the *Native Language Resource Center Act of 2021*, sponsored by Sen. Brian Schatz (HI), passed the House by a vote of 342 Yeas and 71 Nays under suspension of the rules on December 22, 2022.
- S. 1098, the *Joint Consolidation Loan Separation Act*, sponsored by Sen. Mark Warner (VA), passed the House by a vote of 232 Yeas and 193 Nays on September 21, 2022.
- S. 1402, the *Durbin Feeling Native American Languages Act of 2021*, sponsored by Sen. Brian Schatz (HI), passed the House by a vote of 337 Yeas and 79 Nays under suspension of the rules on December 22, 2022.
- S. 1605, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, sponsored by Sen. Rick Scott (FL), passed the House by a vote of 363 Yeas and 70 Nays on December 7, 2021.
- S. 2089, the *Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022*, sponsored by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (NH), passed the House by a vote of 376 Yeas and 42 Nays under suspension of the rules on June 23, 2022.
- S. 2959, the *Supplemental Impact Aid Flexibility Act*, sponsored by Sen. John Thune (SD), passed the House by a vote of 414 Yeas and 6 Nays under suspension of the rules on January 18, 2022.
- S. 3157, the *Bridging the Gap for New Americans Act*, sponsored by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (MN), passed the House by a vote of 363 Yeas and 52 Nays under suspension of the rules on September 19, 2022.
- S. 5329, *A bill to amend the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act to improve the program, and for other purposes*, sponsored by Sen. Richard Blumenthal (CT), passed the House by voice vote under suspension of the rules on December 21, 2022.
- S.J. Res. 13, *Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission relating to "Update of Commission's Conciliation Procedures,"* passed the House by a vote of 219 Yeas and 210 Nays on June 24, 2021.

LEGISLATION REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ENACTED INTO LAW

- H.R. 7791, the *Access to Baby Formula Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Jahana Hayes (CT), was enacted into law on May 21, 2022 (Public Law 117–129).

LEGISLATION REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ENACTED INTO LAW IN
ANOTHER MEASURE

- H.R. 1065, the *Pregnant Workers Fairness Act*, sponsored by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY), as part of H.R. 2617, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA), was enacted into law on December 29, 2022 (substantially similar text was included) (Public Law 117-_____).
- H.R. 2499, the *Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Salud Carbajal (CA), as part of H.R. 7776, the *James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Peter DeFazio (OR), was enacted into law on December 23, 2022 (substantially similar text was included) (Public Law 117-263).
- H.R. 2954, the *Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Richard Neal (MA), as part of H.R. 2617, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA), was enacted into law on December 29, 2022 (provisions were included) (Public Law 117-_____).
- H.R. 3110, the *PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act*, sponsored by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (NY), as part of H.R. 2617, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA), was enacted into law on December 29, 2022 (provisions were included) (Public Law 117-_____).
- H.R. 3519, the *Stop Child Hunger Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. Mike Levin (CA), as part of H.R. 2617, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA), was enacted into law on December 29, 2022 (provisions were included) (Public Law 117-_____).
- H.R. 7310, the *Protecting America's Retirement Security Act*, sponsored by Rep. Lucy McBath (GA), as part of H.R. 2617, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA), was enacted into law on December 29, 2022 (provisions were included) (Public Law 117-_____).
- H.R. 8150, the *Keep Kids Fed Act*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA), as part of S. 2089, the *Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022*, sponsored by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (NH), was enacted into law on June 25, 2022 (the text was included) (Public Law 117-158).
- H.R. 8450, the *Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act*, sponsored by Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA), as part of H.R. 2617, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA), was enacted into law on December 29, 2022 (provisions were included) (Public Law 117-_____).
- H.R. 9028, the *21st Century Assistive Technology Act*, sponsored by Rep. DeSaulnier (CA), as part of H.R. 7776, the *James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Peter DeFazio (OR), was enacted into law on December 23, 2022 (substantially similar text was included) (Public Law 117-263).

LEGISLATION WITHIN COMMITTEE JURISDICTION NOT REFERRED TO
THE COMMITTEE ENACTED INTO LAW

- H.R. 1319, the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*, sponsored by Rep. John Yarmuth (KY), was enacted into law on March 11, 2021 (Public Law 117–2).
- H.R. 2471, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022*, sponsored by Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (NY), was enacted into law on March 15, 2022 (Public Law 117–103).
- H.R. 2617, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA), was enacted into law on December 29, 2022 (Public Law 117–_____).
- H.R. 5305, the *Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act*, sponsored by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT), was enacted into law on September 30, 2021 (Public Law 117–43).
- H.R. 7776, the *James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Peter DeFazio (OR), was enacted into law on December 23, 2022 (Public Law 117–263).
- S. 848, the *Consider Teachers Act of 2021*, sponsored by Sen. Mike Braun (IN), was enacted into law on October 13, 2021 (Public Law 117–49).
- S. 1098, the *Joint Consolidation Loan Separation Act*, sponsored by Sen. Mark Warner (VA), was enacted into law on October 11, 2022 (Public Law 117–200).
- S. 1605, the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022*, sponsored by Sen. Rick Scott (FL), was enacted into law on December 27, 2021 (Public Law 117–81).
- S. 2089, the *Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022*, sponsored by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (NH), was enacted into law on June 25, 2022 (Public Law 117–158).
- S. 2959, the *Supplemental Impact Aid Flexibility Act*, sponsored by Sen. John Thune (SD), was enacted into law on January 21, 2022 (Public Law 117–83).
- S.J. Res. 13, *Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission relating to “Update of Commission’s Conciliation Procedures,”* sponsored by Sen. Patty Murray (WA), was enacted into law on June 30, 2021 (Public Law 117–22).

OVERSIGHT PLAN SUMMARY AND ACTIVITY

OVERSIGHT PLAN SUMMARY

The Committee adopted its oversight plan for the 117th Congress at its organizational meeting on February 8, 2021. The Committee outlined several priority areas for oversight in the plan including, but not limited to:

- COVID–19 Relief Funds
- Civil Rights
- Implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act
- Restarting Student Loan Payments
- Student Aid
- For-Profit Institution Conversions

- Borrower Defense
- Students and Workers with Disabilities
- Department of Labor’s Workforce Development Programs
- Worker Wages
- Workplace Safety and Health
- Mine Safety and Health
- Retirement Security and Pensions
- International Labor Rights
- Guestworker Programs
- Collective Bargaining Rights
- Child Nutrition
- Health Care
- Supporting Communities

ACTIONS TAKEN BASED ON OVERSIGHT PLAN

COVID–19 Relief Funds

• *Hearings*—The Committee held multiple hearings that addressed the U.S. Department of Education’s (ED) implementation and oversight of COVID–19 relief funds. These included: (1) a hearing on June 24, 2021, with U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education”; (2) a hearing on November 17, 2021, titled “Examining the Implementation of COVID–19 Education Funds” (held jointly by the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education and the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment); and (3) a hearing on May 26, 2022, again with Secretary Cardona titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education.”

• *Oversight of Education Stabilization Fund (ESF)*—In response to the COVID–19 pandemic, over \$200 billion in funds was provided through ED to states and school districts to help mitigate the harm to students’ education through three pieces of legislation: (1) the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act); (2) the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act* (CRRSA); and (3) the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* (ARPA). These funds are collectively known as the Education Stabilization Fund (ESF). ED was tasked with distributing and monitoring the ESF. The Committee held oversight meetings with ED to understand its approval process for reviewing states’ COVID–19 and ESF implementation plans, amendments of those state plans, any waivers ED provided to states and districts, and ED’s routine monitoring of these funds.

• *Oversight of Child Care Stabilization Grants*—ARPA included nearly \$24 billion in Child Care Stabilization Grants to be allocated to states, territories, and Tribes to provide rapid financial relief to childcare providers to help them pay for unexpected business costs they faced as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic. The Committee engaged in meetings with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct oversight on the implementation of the Stabilization Grants.

• *Oversight of Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) ARPA Spending*—The Committee held meetings with OSHA to discuss OSHA’s spending of the \$100 million in ARPA funding appropriated to the agency for COVID–19 related activi-

ties. The Committee also held meetings with the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) Office of Inspector General (OIG) to request an audit of OSHA’s spending of the ARPA funding.

- *Oversight of DOL’s ARPA Spending*—The Committee has jurisdiction over the administration of DOL’s programs, which includes the administration of the UI system. In March 2021, ARPA provided \$2 billion in funding to DOL for Unemployment Insurance (UI) Modernization, “aimed at supporting the delivery of timely, accurate, and equitable UI payments” and addressing the many “deep-seated barriers” to access to the UI system. In August 2021, DOL announced that it would use this funding to award equity grants to the states. The equity grants will enable states to carry out activities that promote equitable access to UI programs, which include, for example, improving claimant outreach and customer service processes, improving access for lower-income claimants, eliminating administrative barriers to benefit applications, reducing state workload backlogs, improving timeliness of UI payments to eligible individuals, and ensuring equity in fraud prevention, detection, and recovery activities. The Committee engaged in meetings with DOL to discuss the status of these equity grant awards. The Committee also requested that DOL’s OIG include a review of the performance of these grants in its annual audit; for FY 2023, one of DOL’s OIG’s discretionary audits will focus on the ARPA equity grants and DOL’s and the states’ effectiveness in addressing the potential racial and ethnic disparities in the UI program.+

- *Oversight of DOL’s Implementation of the UI CARES Act Programs*—In March 2020, Congress created temporary UI programs to supplement and support the regular UI system because of the widespread unemployment caused by the COVID–19 pandemic. The programs, created by the CARES Act, include: the Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program, the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, and the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. The CARES Act UI programs successfully fulfilled their purpose by preventing the country’s economic collapse during the pandemic. However, the U.S. Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) examination of these pandemic UI programs found that DOL and the states struggled to consistently administer the programs efficiently and effectively. GAO also found that the implementation of these temporary programs highlighted several long-standing challenges in the regular UI system that need to be addressed expeditiously, including, for example, preventing improper payments and fraud, improving the modernization of states’ UI information technology (IT) systems, and advancing equitable access to the UI system. Moreover, GAO concluded that because these challenges pose a significant risk to UI service delivery and expose the UI system to significant financial loss, the agency determined that the UI system should be added to its High Risk List—a designation that the program is vulnerable and susceptible to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. The Committee engaged in meetings with DOL’s Employment and Training Administration (ETA) to discuss its oversight of, and lessons learned from, DOL’s implementation of these UI CARES Act Programs.

Civil Rights

- *Discipline Disparities Guidance*—The Committee received a report from GAO after it examined students' experiences with bullying, hate speech, hate crimes, and victimization in K–12 schools. As a result of the report, the Committee engaged with ED's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to understand how ED is addressing student complaints of hostile behavior by other students in schools that are inadequately addressed by the schools. The Committee requested information on how ED's OCR is processing complaints of violations of Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as well as addressing a backlog of complaints dating back to 2014. Further, the Committee engaged with ED's OCR on the need for ED to issue discipline disparities guidance and urged ED to be mindful of guidance that may result in school hardening measures, such as implementing surveillance cameras, metal detectors, door-locking systems, and even introducing armed guards and arming teachers in schools. School hardening measures negatively impact students of color and students with disabilities. ED's OCR has issued discipline guidance related to students with disabilities. However, more general discipline guidance is still pending and is being coordinated with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

- *United States v. Fordice Compliance*—Since the passage of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* and the *Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974*, ED's OCR has been working to address racially segregated systems of higher education in states. *United States v. Fordice* was a 1992 U.S. Supreme Court decision that held that eight public universities in Mississippi had not sufficiently integrated and ordered the state to take action to address this issue in order to comply with the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, which mandates that individuals in similar situations be treated equally under the law and has been interpreted by the Supreme Court to help dismantle racial segregation under the law. In *Fordice*, the Court found that while Mississippi had eliminated explicit prohibitions on the admission of black students to institutions, the state was still using discriminatory policies to suppress the enrollment of black students at these eight schools, known as *de jure* segregation. Since the *Fordice* decision, between 1998 and 2009, eight states—Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia—entered into consent decrees and settlement agreements with ED's OCR in order to remedy their states' racially segregated systems of higher education. ED's OCR closed the matter with two states, Virginia and Kentucky, in January 2009. Due to concerns that the remaining agreements expired or were no longer being enforced by ED's OCR under or since the Trump Administration, the Committee engaged with OCR on how ED is monitoring and ensuring the remaining six states' compliance with the *Fordice* decision. Further, the Committee is concerned about *de facto* segregation (segregation in fact as compared with *de jure* segregation, which is segregation under the law). Investigative reporting has found that *de facto* racial segregation continues at state-operated colleges and universities, where the number of Black or Hispanic students attending the state institution is significantly fewer than the Black or Hispanic student population of the state. As such, the Committee also engaged with ED's OCR

to inquire whether ED is considering any investigations of *de facto* segregation in the six states with ongoing *Fordice* settlement agreements or in any other states.

- *Compliance with Brown v. Board of Education and School Re-segregation*—The Committee received a report from GAO after it examined the extent of student racial and economic isolation in public schools. The Committee had requested this report in order to understand patterns of racial and economic segregation and isolation in K–12 public schools in the U.S. The report concluded that even though the K–12 public school student population has grown significantly more diverse since 2016 when GAO last examined this topic, schools remain divided along racial, ethnic, and economic lines throughout the U.S. Specifically, in the 2020–2021 school year, more than one-third of students attended a predominantly same-race/ethnicity school, defined as one where 75 percent or more of the student population is of a single race/ethnicity. Fourteen percent of students attended schools where 90 percent or more of the students were of a single race/ethnicity. Further, the report showed that cities and school districts engage in a process called “district secession,” a process by which schools sever governance ties from an existing district to form a new district. Usually, the goal of district secession is for the new district, which is often a smaller district, to achieve greater control over funding and school resources. The GAO report showed that between 2009 and 2020, 36 district secessions occurred, which generally resulted in shifts in racial/ethnic composition and wealth. Compared to remaining districts, new districts had roughly triple the share of white students, double the share of Asian students, two-thirds the share of Hispanic students, and one-fifth the share of Black students. Further, new districts were also generally wealthier than remaining districts, when using the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced price lunch as a proxy for poverty. The Committee utilized the findings in this report in the *amicus curiae* brief submitted on behalf of 65 Democratic Members of the House of Representatives to the Supreme Court for the Students for *Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* lawsuit. The report also highlights the continued need for desegregation efforts, which are reflected in two bills introduced by Chairman Scott: H.R. 729, the Strength in Diversity Act, and H.R. 730, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2021.

- *Title IX Work Requests to GAO*—Title IX of the *Education Amendments of 1972* (Title IX) is a landmark law intended to ensure that no person is discriminated against on the basis of sex in federally-funded education programs, including opportunities to participate in intercollegiate athletics. The Committee requested four Title IX related studies from GAO.

- The first study requested that GAO examine ED’s oversight of colleges’ athletic programs and sexual violence prevention activities within those athletic programs. This study was requested due to the number of high-profile cases related to sexual abuse in college athletic programs, such as at the University of Michigan and Pennsylvania State University. Additionally, a recent survey found that more than one in four current or former student athletes reported being sexually assaulted or harassed by someone in a position of power on cam-

pus, compared with one in ten students in the general student population. The Committee requested the study to better understand the steps that ED is taking to protect student athletes from sexual harassment, abuse, and violence.

- The second study requested that GAO examine whether institutions of higher education (IHEs) provide equitable opportunities to participate in intercollegiate athletics as well equitable scholarships, facilities, equipment, supplies, and other benefits, in compliance with Title IX. This study was requested due to media reports of disparate treatment of female athletes, such as female athletes having substantially inferior practice facilities compared to their male peers during the NCAA Division I Basketball Championships in 2020. The Committee requested the study to better understand the current opportunities and resources available to female college athletes.

- The third study requested that GAO examine how IHEs are providing protections for individuals who are pregnant, have terminated a pregnancy, or are parenting students in compliance with Title IX. This study was requested due to the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which potentially endangers these Title IX protections. The Committee requested the study to better understand the current landscape of institutions' compliance with Title IX protections for individuals who are pregnant, have terminated a pregnancy, or are parenting students.

- The fourth study requested that GAO examine how K–12 schools that host Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) programs ensure compliance with Title IX protections to protect students from sexual harassment, abuse, and violence. This study was requested due to recent investigative reporting that found that 33 JROTC instructors were criminally charged with sexual misconduct involving students, and that JROTC instructors were accused of such misconduct at a far higher rate than the rate of civilian high school teachers. The Committee requested the study to better understand the current landscape of JROTC programs and their compliance with Title IX protections.

- *Section 504 Rulemaking (ED)*—Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* (Section 504) ensures that individuals with disabilities are not discriminated against in programs that receive federal financial assistance. In May 2022, ED announced plans to gather public input on possible amendments to Section 504 regulations in order to strengthen and protect the rights of students with disabilities. The Committee sent a letter to ED on August 25, 2022, to provide recommendations for needed updates to Section 504 requirements. Specifically, the Committee emphasized: (1) including disability protections in childcare settings for children with disabilities; (2) providing a clear framework for due process rights families have to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE); (3) providing clear guidance on preventing the use of harmful restraint, seclusion, and therapy practices against students with disabilities; and (4) ensuring that students with disabilities are able to receive the accommodations they need in post-secondary education.

- *Section 504 Rulemaking (HHS)*—Pursuant to Section 504, individuals with disabilities may not be discriminated against in programs that receive federal financial assistance in the delivery of health care services. The antidiscrimination requirements in the regulations for Section 504 require that health care providers that receive federal financial assistance provide full and equal access to their health care services and facilities. While many Americans can access health care services without issue, individuals with physical disabilities continue to face unique challenges receiving these services if their health care provider does not have accessible medical equipment such as examination tables, mammography equipment, x-ray machines, and other equipment that is commonly used for diagnostic purposes by health professionals. *The Affordable Care Act (ACA)*, enacted in 2010, required the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) to develop standards for accessible medical diagnostic equipment (ADME) within two years of the statute’s enactment. After years long delays, in January 2017, the Access Board finally published these standards, but they were not adopted before the transition to President Trump’s Administration, which did not fully adopt them. Therefore, on June 28, 2022, the Committee sent a letter to HHS to encourage it to finally adopt the Access Board’s 2017 ADME standards through the agencies’ ongoing rulemaking. Adopting these standards will help to ensure that health care providers that receive federal financial assistance provide full and equal access to their health care services and facilities.

- *Faith Based Regulations*—In 2020, the Trump Administration issued final rules by nine departments—*Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in the Federal Agencies’ Programs and Activities*. These final rules changed the preexisting regulatory framework governing how the federal government contracts with faith-based organizations. The 2020 rules included policies that threaten to undermine vulnerable individuals’ access to federally-funded social service programs by allowing them to be subjected to religious discrimination and coercion in some circumstances. On August 5, 2022, the Committee sent a letter to President Biden expressing support for the Administration’s plans to engage in rulemaking regarding the 2020 rules, urging President Biden’s Administration to revisit the Trump-era rules and restore and strengthen protections against religious discrimination and coercion in federal social service programs.

- *Section 1557 Rulemaking*—The Committee, along with the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means, shares primary jurisdiction over the ACA. On October 3, 2022, the three committees sent a joint letter to HHS in support of the proposed rule, *Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities*. This proposed rule would effectuate statutory text and congressional intent in enacting Section 1557 of the ACA to ensure that individuals’ civil rights are protected while receiving health care services. The proposed rule would also rectify key gaps in prior iterations of the rule that were inconsistent with the ACA’s statutory mandate and undermined the purpose of the law. Moreover, the proposed rule reflects both evolving judicial precedent and technological developments affecting patient access to care, and it is particularly imperative given the continually growing threats to

reproductive health and LGBTQI+ health. In the joint letter, the committees noted their strong support for the proposed rule and urged HHS to swiftly finalize the rule following the public comment period.

- *Diversity in Higher Education*—The Committee sent a letter to GAO requesting a review of faculty diversity at IHEs. Specifically, the request asked GAO to examine the racial composition of faculty at IHEs and to what extent ED, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and DOJ’s Civil Rights Division (CRD) have taken steps to promote faculty diversity and prevent racial discrimination in faculty hiring, promotion, and compensation. The Committee is concerned about faculty diversity because research reports showed that, while the share of students of color among all undergraduate students increased from approximately 30 percent to approximately 45 percent between 1996 and 2016, only approximately 17 percent of full-time professors are people of color. Relatedly, studies have shown that students benefit from having teachers who look like them, especially nonwhite students. The Committee sent this request to better understand the current state of faculty diversity as well as steps ED, EEOC, and DOJ are taking to promote diversity and protect minority faculty from discrimination.

- *Workplace Accommodations and Vaccination Requirements*—On October 26, 2021, the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections and the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services held a joint hearing titled “Protecting Lives and Livelihoods: Vaccine Requirements and Employee Accommodations,” during which the Members and witnesses discussed the interplay between COVID-19 vaccine requirements in the private employment sector and an employer’s responsibility to provide modifications and/or accommodations to such requirements based on religion, disability, and/or pregnancy under federal civil rights laws.

- *EEOC and OFCCP Hearing*—On April 27, 2022, the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services held a hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs[OFCCP],” to explore the EEOC’s and the OFCCP’s civil rights enforcement activities. With regard to the EEOC, the hearing addressed the agency’s capacity to combat racial injustice and systemic discrimination; its enforcement of protections for LGBTQI+ workers; and its ability to reduce its inventory of unprocessed charges, among other issues. With regard to the OFCCP, the hearing addressed the agency’s efforts to increase its oversight of federal contractors and subcontractors with new initiatives such as the Mega Construction Project Program, a program designed to provide proactive compliance assistance to contractors to help expand access to jobs for historically underrepresented groups on large construction contracts; its proposed rulemaking related to its rescission of a Trump Administration-era religious exemption rule for religious-based federal contractors; and its efforts to address pay equity by issuing a directive that reaffirms the agency’s commitment to conducting pay equity audits, among other issues.

- *EEOC Oversight*—The Committee held meetings with the EEOC to better understand its enforcement priorities, such as its

response to the report issued on July 28, 2022, by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, which evaluated the integrity and utility of the pay data the EEOC collected from private sector employers and certain federal contractors during 2017 and 2018. The report found that pay data collection is an important tool to address pay discrimination and that the EEOC can use the pay data to prioritize investigations and help the agency allocate resources to identify potential pay discrimination. The report also recommended that the agency take several steps to improve its pay data collection efforts should the agency collect such data in the future. The agency acknowledged that it has already started to address some of the recommendations in the report that will help with pay discrimination enforcement efforts but stated that future pay data collections will need to be carefully considered. Additionally, during these meetings, agency officials discussed the agency's staffing challenges, which include hiring more frontline staff to help the agency process the approximately 250 charges it receives daily as well as addressing the length of its intake process. Also discussed during the meetings was the implementation of new initiatives during the Biden Administration, such as Hiring Initiative to Reimagine Equity (HIRE), which is a joint initiative with OFCCP that aims to reimagine hiring and recruitment practices in ways that will advance equal employment opportunity and help provide access to good jobs for workers. Discussions also included the agency's Artificial Intelligence and Algorithmic Fairness Initiative, which the agency launched to ensure that employers' use of software—including artificial intelligence (AI) machine learning—and other emerging technologies in employment decisions is done in ways that are consistent with requirements under federal civil rights laws.

- *OFCCP Oversight*—The Committee held meetings with OFCCP to understand its role in the implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)). Under BIL, Congress authorized significant investments in infrastructure projects, which means that the number of federal contractors under OFCCP's jurisdiction will significantly increase during the next few years. The anticipated growth in the number of federal contractors comes at a time when the agency has reached its lowest staffing levels in decades. Therefore, the agency discussed how it has been hiring additional staff during the past fiscal year while also acknowledging that it will need additional resources to adequately meet the demands of overseeing a larger contractor community. Discussions also included OFCCP's efforts to revamp its Mega Construction Project Program, a program designed to provide proactive compliance assistance to contractors to help expand access to jobs for historically underrepresented groups on large construction contracts, and its implementation of the Affirmative Action Program—Verification Initiative (AAVI), which requires contractors to annually verify that they are compliant with affirmative action program (AAP) requirements. Implementation of the AAVI is in response to a 2016 GAO report that found that OFCCP's oversight was limited by reliance on contractors' voluntary compliance with AAP requirements. Therefore, AAVI seeks to improve contractor compliance with AAP requirements. Additionally, the oversight meetings addressed OFCCP's re-

response to litigation filed in 2019 against DOL by the Center for Investigative Reporting in which the organization is seeking all EEO 1 Type 2 Reports filed by contractors from 2016 to 2020 under the *Freedom of Information Act* (FOIA). OFCCP discussed the steps it has taken to respond to this litigation, including publishing notices in the Federal Register on August 19, 2022, and September 27, 2022, and informing contractors that the agency has received a FOIA request from CIR for the EEO 1 reports and that the contractors may submit an objection to the disclosure of this information by October 19, 2022. OFCCP sent out another notice on November 27, 2022, to contractors who did not submit an objection by the October 19th deadline to advise them that their EEO 1 reports may be subject to a disclosure.

- *HHS Hearing*—The Committee held a hearing on April 6, 2022, titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services” (April 6th Hearing), which covered numerous issues including the enforcement of civil rights protections by HHS’ Office for Civil Rights (OCR). For example, a Democratic Member asked U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra whether HHS’ OCR could withdraw the Trump-era waivers issued to child welfare entities in South Carolina, Texas, and Michigan allowing them to use the *Religious Freedom and Restoration Act* (RFRA) to turn families away from participating in federally-funded foster care programs based on their religion or because of religious objections to the foster care parents’ sexual orientation or gender identity. Additionally, in a Question for the Record (QFR) submitted after the hearing, a Democratic Member asked Secretary Becerra about the impact of his decision to rescind the Trump-era delegation of authority to HHS’ OCR for RFRA compliance. On May 4, 2017, President Trump issued Executive Order 13798, *Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty* (E.O. 13798), which established the Administration’s policy to protect and enforce religious exercise and political speech to the greatest extent practicable. In response to E.O. 13798, on October 6, 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued the *Guidance on Federal Law Protections for Religious Liberty* (Guidance) in which it purported to interpret and clarify existing religious liberty protections in federal law. Consistent with E.O. 13798 and the Guidance, on January 19, 2018, HHS announced that the HHS Secretary was delegating to HHS’ OCR the authority over implementation of and compliance with RFRA relating to programs or activities funded, conducted, or administered by HHS. Critics of the delegation of authority expressed concerns that the delegation may have over-expanded HHS’ OCR’s authority; prior to that delegation there had not been a division within HHS that was singularly responsible for HHS’ compliance with RFRA or First Amendment issues. On November 23, 2021, HHS announced the rescission of the Trump-era delegation of authority. In response to the QFR asking about the impact of the rescission, Secretary Becerra stated that the purpose of the rescission was to restore HHS’ long-standing practice of allowing HHS components to determine “how their programs must be run to comply with the Free Exercise Clause and the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment as well as RFRA.” 86 FR 67067 (Nov. 24, 2021). Secretary Becerra also stated that HHS components have the greatest knowl-

edge about their respective programs and are the ones best positioned to engage in RFRA analysis. Finally, Secretary Becerra concluded by reaffirming that HHS takes its obligations to comply with the law seriously, and it will continue to follow those and all other applicable federal laws.

Implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- *Implementation of ESSA*—State education agencies (SEAs) are required by the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*, as amended by ESSA, to submit state plans to ED describing how SEAs have developed and are implementing accountability systems to support all public elementary school and secondary school students in meeting challenging state academic standards. Due to the extraordinarily adverse effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on K–12 education nationwide, ED permitted SEAs to amend their state plans to revise components of state accountability systems (known as an amendment). SEAs could submit multiple amendments to their state plans, which are collectively referred to as “addenda.” These addenda and amendments are meant to be temporary changes to the SEAs’ previously approved plans. As of December 12, 2022, thirty-four SEAs revised at least one of the four key components of their accountability system through an approved addendum. As of December 12, 2022, eight SEAs revised at least one of the four key components of their accountability system through an approved amendment. ED reviewed and approved these addenda and amendments. The Committee conducted an in-depth analysis of ED’s review process and the approved addenda and amendments. Based on the review, the Committee encouraged ED to take further steps to ensure faithful implementation of accountability systems it approved before the pandemic. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight over ED to ensure that low-performing schools are appropriately identified and provided support.

- *Implementation of the ESSA One Percent Cap*—ESSA requires states to test students annually in several subjects. However, ESSA allows states to administer alternative assessments aligned with alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, capping participation in alternative assessments at one percent of tested students (known as the “one percent cap”). States are permitted to request waivers of the one percent cap requirement one year at a time. The Committee held oversight meetings with ED to understand its approval process for reviewing states’ applications for a waiver from the one percent cap. Further, based on information provided to the Committee from stakeholders in the disability education community, the Committee requested clarifying guidance from ED on the process through which states can request waivers from the one percent cap. The Committee requested that states be required to engage in a public comment period when a state requests its initial waiver from the one percent cap as well as when the state renews its waiver request for another year. In response to the Committee’s inquiries, ED has provided updated guidance to states, which includes a requirement to engage in a public comment period during both the initial waiver request and a waiver extension request.

Restarting Student Loan Payments

In March 2020, ED used its authority under the *Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003* (HEROES Act) to pause interest accrual on ED-held federal loans, suspend collections on defaulted loans, and allow borrowers to request their loans be placed in forbearance for up to 60 days (known as “the payment pause”). Later that month, the CARES Act was signed into law and included provisions to extend the pause in interest accrual and collections and make the payment pause automatic for all borrowers with ED-held federal loans through September 30, 2020. ED extended these relief measures three more times through January 31, 2022, using HEROES Act authority. Most recently, ED extended these relief measures a fourth time until ED is permitted to implement the one-time debt relief program announced by the Biden Administration or until the current litigation about the one-time debt relief program is resolved, but no later than September 2023.

- *Hearing*—The Committee held a hearing on October 27, 2021, titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Office of Federal Student Aid,” to explore how ED’s Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) was preparing and communicating with student loan servicers to restart student loan payments after the payment pause is lifted.

- *Oversight*—The Committee held oversight meetings with ED to understand the processes ED was putting into place to return to repayment after the payment pause is lifted, as well as the communication ED was providing to both student loan servicers and borrowers about return to repayment. The Committee also engaged with several student loan servicers to understand how the servicers were preparing for return to repayment. The Committee provided feedback and recommendations to ED to help improve the process for return to repayment to ensure that student borrowers are provided clear, consistent information about their repayment obligations.

Student Aid

- *Rulemaking*—In 2021, ED announced its intention to re-regulate several important student aid issues as part of a negotiated rulemaking process, including total and permanent disability discharge, closed school discharge, interest capitalization, the public service loan forgiveness (PSLF) program, borrower defense adjudication and recovery, pre-dispute arbitration, income-driven repayment plans, false certification discharge, gainful employment, and the 90/10 rule. ED conducted negotiated rulemaking sessions in October 2021 and January 2022. ED released two Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRMs) on these student aid issues, and the Committee sent comment letters to ED in response to the NPRMs.

- *Hearing*—The Committee held a hearing on October 27, 2021, titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Office of Federal Student Aid.” FSA is the office within ED responsible for the management of Title IV federal financial aid programs provided under the *Higher Education Act of 1965* (HEA), including Pell Grants, campus-based aid, and federal student loans. FSA also plays a key role in overseeing IHEs and enforcing compliance with the requirements for Title IV participation. Title IV of HEA provides financial assistance to students to assist them in obtaining a

postsecondary education at participating IHEs. The hearing covered the plans and priorities of ED generally, and FSA specifically, related to federal student loans, oversight of predatory for-profit institutions, and protections for student loan borrowers.

- *Income Driven Repayment (IDR)*—IDR plans were created by the Congress to provide financial relief for student loan borrowers who might otherwise be at risk of default as they try to pay their student loans. There are several types of IDR plans, but they all generally aim to decrease borrowers' monthly payments (including down to zero), forgive a borrower's loan after a certain period of consistent payment, or subsidize interest on the borrower's student loan. The first IDR plan was established in 1994 and required payment for 25 years before a borrower's loan could be forgiven. As such, the first set of student loans that could be forgiven under an IDR plan arose in 2019. To better understand ED's implementation of IDR plans and whether eligible borrowers were receiving timely loan forgiveness, the Committee requested a GAO study on IDR plans. The Committee received a report based on an examination by GAO of ED's implementation and oversight of the IDR plans. The report found that there were long-standing flaws in ED's implementation of the IDR plans, which left thousands of student loan borrowers without the loan forgiveness for which they may be eligible. The report found that at least 3,000 student loan borrowers who may be eligible for loan forgiveness under their respective IDR plan have not received forgiveness yet. If left unaddressed, by the year 2030, the number of borrowers that might be left without forgiveness would balloon to approximately 600,000 borrowers and approximately 1.5 million loans. According to the GAO report, the reason borrowers were not receiving the loan forgiveness was due to mismanagement of student loan repayment data, which caused loan servicers and ED to miscount repayments and inaccurately track borrowers' progress toward forgiveness (known as "payment counts"). The Committee met with ED to discuss GAO's findings. In particular, the Committee was concerned about how the miscounting of payment counts impacts the most vulnerable borrowers such as those in default or sending \$0 payments. The Committee wrote a letter to ED on April 15, 2022, urging the implementation of several changes to ED's implementation of IDR plans to address the findings in the GAO report. On April 19, 2022, ED proposed several changes to address the findings. ED announced that it will conduct a one-time revision of IDR payment counts to address past inaccuracies for borrowers. ED will also conduct a one-time account adjustment to count certain long-term forbearances toward IDR. Historically, ED and other regulatory agencies have found that borrowers who were inappropriately placed into long-term forbearances (instead of IDR) are unable to take advantage of forgiveness programs (known as "forbearance steering"). For borrowers who had forbearances of more than 12 consecutive months and more than 36 cumulative months, ED will do a one-time correction to count those months toward forgiveness under IDR. Borrowers who had shorter-term forbearances will be able to seek individual account reviews with the FSA Ombudsman. ED is also working to permanently fix IDR payment counts by requiring FSA to track payments and implementing borrower friendly reforms to help borrowers track their payment counts to

ensure accuracy. ED committed to increase oversight of servicers' using forbearance as an option for borrowers by conducting external reviews and audits of forbearance use. Lastly, ED is working on an IDR rulemaking, with the intent to simplify payment counts by allowing more loan statuses, including certain types of deferment and forbearance, to count toward IDR. The Committee continues to engage with ED on the implementation of the proposed changes.

- *Closed School Discharge GAO Work*—HEA requires ED to hold students harmless and discharge their student loan debts if their colleges close. Students affected by college closures have three options: (1) continue pursuing their degrees either through teach-out plans offered by their own institution or agreements with other institutions; (2) transfer to another institution of their choice; or (3) apply for a discharge of their federal student loans. ED is responsible for coordinating with colleges, state agencies, and accreditors to mitigate the impact of school closures. To ease the bureaucratic burden on students based on findings that about half of eligible borrowers do not apply for a discharge even three years after their schools closed, in 2016 ED finalized regulations that automatically discharged loans for students who neither continued their education nor applied for discharge within three years of their school closure if their school closed on or after November 1, 2013. However, in September 2019, the Trump Administration reversed these regulations and eliminated automatic loan discharge stating that ED was no longer required to provide automatic discharges to students whose institutions closed on or after July 1, 2020. At the time, little was known about student outcomes following school closures, related taxpayer liabilities, and ED's processes for coordinating with relevant entities when a school closure is announced. Accordingly, in 2019, the Committee requested GAO investigate these topics. In September 2021, the Committee received a report with the results of GAO's examination of ED's implementation and oversight of the Closed School Discharge program. The report found that ED has not been able to implement this program in a way that helps student borrowers receive the relief to which they are legally eligible when their institution of higher education precipitously closes. Further, the changing regulations between the Obama and Trump Administrations was confusing to borrowers, who could not easily determine what type of relief, if any, was applicable to them.

- *Closed School Discharge Hearing*—The Committee held a hearing in the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment titled "Protecting Students and Taxpayers: Improving the Closed School Discharge Process" on September 30, 2021, to hear testimony from GAO about its report as well as from experts who proposed solutions that ED could take into consideration as it undertook rulemaking on the subject of closed school discharge.

- *Closed School Discharge Rulemaking*—In July 2022, ED released a NPRM, which included new rules about the Closed School Discharge program, aimed to address the problems raised in the GAO report. ED proposed: (1) reinstating the automatic closed school discharge process one year after a college's closure; (2) establishing a longer eligibility period for students who withdrew before the college closed; (3) expanding the list of examples of reasons why

a student would be eligible for a closed school discharge; and (4) removing the requirement that a student affirm that they did not complete a “comparable program” at another school. The Committee sent a letter with recommendations to ED as part of the rulemaking process, encouraging ED to provide immediate relief to borrowers once their school closes, regardless of their transfer status, and without a one-year wait period. The Committee’s letter also encouraged ED to conduct more robust oversight over the teach-out process, so that students who could complete their degree at their current college or at another college are able to do so with minimal disruption.

- *Next Generation Federal Student Aid (Next Gen FSA)*—In 2014, the Obama Administration began an effort—known as Next Gen FSA—to streamline and simplify the student loan repayment system, which is both confusing for borrowers to navigate and expensive for ED to administer. Unfortunately, the implementation of Next Gen FSA has been repeatedly delayed by bid protests, which must be resolved before the procurement can continue. Every solicitation between 2014 and 2021 by ED to procure vendors to build and service the Next Gen FSA systems has faced bid protests by the vendors competing for the contract. In 2022, ED issued a solicitation for the Unified Servicing and Data Solution (USDS), an important servicing component of Next Gen FSA. The vendor that wins the USDS solicitation will need to service student loans; process special types of student loans (such as PSLF and IDR); perform financial and operational reporting requirements under the law; as well as build data integration systems with other, existing FSA systems. ED hopes to finalize the solicitation and contracting with a vendor for USDS by December 2023. The Committee held meetings with ED to conduct oversight over the USDS bid process, including how ED will avoid the solicitation issues of the past and ensure that Next Gen FSA is implemented quickly and properly with performance metrics that ensure that the vendor is providing accurate information to borrowers and a quality service to both borrowers and FSA.

- *Letters of Credit*—Title IV of HEA provides financial assistance to students to assist them in obtaining a postsecondary education at IHEs. HEA requires IHEs to submit financial statements to ED when applying to participate in Title IV programs. HEA regulations establish general standards of financial responsibility and provide rules for how ED determines the financial responsibility of an IHE each year. If ED determines that an IHE does not meet sufficient standards of financial responsibility and/or does not comply with other regulatory requirements under HEA, ED can require an IHE to remit a letter of credit (LOC) to ED. An LOC is a financial instrument issued by a financial institution (e.g., a bank) on behalf of an IHE, which is generally secured by collateral held by the bank. The LOC mitigates the monetary risk to ED and students from IHEs that have insufficient standards of financial responsibility or other regulatory issues. After securing an LOC, ED can permit the IHE to continue Title IV participation, while the IHE remediates its underlying financial and regulatory issues. The bank will pay the LOC funds to ED if ED initiates collection because the IHE fails to remediate its underlying financial and regulatory issues and causes ED to incur a financial liability (e.g., be-

cause the IHE closes and ED is required to provide closed school discharges to students or because the IHE misrepresents information to students and ED is required to discharge students' loans (called borrower defense discharge). LOCs are issued for a specific period of time, and they expire unless ED requires the IHE to renew the LOC. Media reports have highlighted that ED permitted LOCs to expire even though ED should have either initiated collection of the LOC or required an extension of the LOC due to ongoing financial and regulatory issues with the IHE. Based on this reporting, the Committee requested ED's OIG review how ED implements LOCs and monitors their use, especially for IHEs that have a history of inappropriate student recruitment practices and ongoing financial and regulatory concerns.

For-Profit Institution Conversions

HEA includes regulatory requirements for for-profit colleges, above and beyond those for non-profit and public institutions, as a condition of becoming eligible for federal student aid under Title IV of HEA. One such requirement, the 90/10 rule, requires for-profit institutions to derive at least 10 percent of their revenue from funds other than Title IV program funds; non-profit institutions are not subject to the 90/10 rule. For-profit colleges are also generally ineligible for institutional grant programs and subsidized lending programs. For-profit colleges have begun to convert to non-profit institutions to distance themselves from the fraud associated with the for-profit sector; avoid heightened regulatory scrutiny; and access additional Title IV funds, grant aid, and tax benefits.

- *Hearing on GAO Report*—GAO examined and issued a report about how for-profit IHEs convert to non-profit IHEs and ED's oversight of the conversion process. The report found that while only a small number of conversions involved insiders (owners or executives controlling both the non-profit and for-profit simultaneously), insider conversions accounted for the vast majority of federal student loan aid received by converted institutions (called "converted non-profits" or "covert for-profits"). GAO further found that these converted non-profits perform worse financially than converted IHEs that do not involve insiders, putting students and taxpayers at risk, and that existing regulations fail to prevent these institutions from improperly channeling benefits to insiders. After the release of GAO's report, the Committee conducted a hearing titled "For-Profit College Conversions: Examining Ways to Improve Accountability and Prevent Fraud" on April 20, 2021. The hearing provided an opportunity for Committee members to better understand GAO's findings and recommendations and hear from experts on how ED can better regulate and conduct oversight of converted non-profits.

- *Information and Data Sharing*—The Committee sent a letter to ED regarding ED's process for reviewing, approving, and monitoring for-profit college conversions to non-profit institutions. Specifically, the letter identified several issues demonstrating that ED and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) must take steps to reform their respective processes for reviewing conversions and halt the approval of all conversions until

ED and the IRS finalize those reforms. The letter requested responses to several questions related to these issues.

- *Reconsideration of Conversions*—The Committee sent three letters related to specific for-profit entities that converted to non-profit status.

- Two letters were sent to the IRS—one about University of Arizona Global Campus and another about Grand Canyon University. The letters requested the IRS reconsider its previous approval of non-profit status to each institution. The IRS can reconsider an institution’s non-profit status based on information it receives about the institution’s relationships with for-profit corporations.

- The third letter was sent to ED requesting its review of Everglades College’s non-profit status for the purposes of Title IV funding and application of the 90/10 rule. In the letter, the Committee outlined conduct by Everglades College—which operates two universities, Everglades University and Keiser University—that raised questions as to whether Everglades College qualifies as a nonprofit for Title IV eligibility under HEA because the institution’s earnings seemed to benefit private shareholders, individuals, and related businesses, which contravenes the Title IV definition of a nonprofit institution. ED can reconsider an institution’s non-profit status when the institution’s program participation agreement (PPA)—which outlines the terms for how the institution participates in Title IV programs under HEA to access federal student aid funds—is renewed.

Borrower Defense

Under HEA, borrowers can seek loan forgiveness of their student loans if their IHE misled them or engaged in other misconduct in violation of certain state laws. This is known as “borrower defense to repayment” or “borrower defense.” In order to receive loan forgiveness, the borrower has to submit an application to ED requesting forgiveness. ED then completes a detailed investigation into the borrower’s application, the IHE, and the allegations of misconduct. During this investigation process, the IHE is permitted to respond to the allegations of misconduct. ED can review borrower defense claims individually or as a group if a group of borrowers all attended the same IHE and are alleging similar misconduct in the same time period. The group claims, if approved, are called “group discharges.” Unfortunately, tens of thousands of borrowers with borrower defense claims have been waiting years to have their claims reviewed by ED. Borrowers and advocates sued ED in a case titled *Sweet v. Cardona* (formerly *Sweet v. DeVos*), arguing that under the Trump Administration ED deliberately and illegally stopped processing borrower defense claims and wrongfully denied other borrowers’ claims without considering the merits of their cases. The Biden Administration has been working to review applications both individually and for groups of students, and so far it has approved relief of more than \$2 billion for more than 100,000 borrowers.

- *Oversight*—The Committee held oversight meetings with ED to understand the processes ED was putting into place to

address borrower defense claims from IHEs that have defrauded students and then closed precipitously, including ED's process to review and grant group discharges. The Committee continued to press ED to hold owners, executives, and board members of defunct for-profit and converted non-profit IHEs individually responsible for liabilities of the institution to the federal government, including those arising from borrower defense claims. Pursuing personal liability against these individuals could permit ED to recoup taxpayer dollars that had been provided to the IHE through Title IV student aid funds.

- *Sweet v. Cardona Settlement Agreement*—On June 22, 2022, ED and the plaintiffs reached a proposed settlement in the *Sweet v. Cardona* case. The final settlement was approved by a federal court order on November 16, 2022. Under this settlement, \$6 billion in student loan debt discharges will be provided for approximately 200,000 borrowers. Additionally, more than 60,000 borrowers will have their fraud claims reconsidered on the merits between six and 30 months, depending on when the borrower filed their borrower defense claim. The settlement identifies over 100 IHEs, many of which are for-profit or converted non-profit institutions, against whom these borrower defense claims were initiated. Several of these IHEs remain open, such as DeVry University, University of Phoenix, Everglades University, and Keiser University. The Committee wrote a letter to ED on August 09, 2022, requesting information about how ED is going to recoup funds from the IHEs that are included in this settlement agreement and are still open, including whether ED is considering holding the IHEs' executives personally liable for the costs paid out by ED to resolve the borrower defense claims.

Students and Workers with Disabilities

- *Work Request to GAO*—The Committee commissioned GAO to examine school districts' compliance with the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* and the requirement to provide access to assistive technology (AT) as part of a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). The Committee also requested a review of the compatibility of AT with other technology that school districts have been using to teach or work with students, including students with disabilities, during the COVID-19 pandemic. This report will help the Committee understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students with disabilities and how technology can be used to help these students.

- *Work Request to GAO*—Individuals with disabilities face several barriers to employment, and their employment rate has historically been far lower than that of individuals without disabilities. *The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA)* made updates to the country's primary employment and training programs, including the network of one-stop centers that provide a variety of employment training services. WIOA also prohibits disability discrimination against people who apply to or participate in DOL-supported programs. DOL has issued guidance to help states and one-stop centers comply with this antidiscrimination requirement; this guidance has, for example, addressed how one-stop centers can adopt practices that promote inclusion and ef-

fective services to ensure equal access for one-stop participants with disabilities. In 2004, GAO completed a comprehensive review of one stop centers' accessibility for people with disabilities. The report found that the centers had gaps in addressing accessibility issues and that DOL only monitored a small fraction of the one stop centers nationwide to determine whether they were complying with the disability antidiscrimination requirement. Given that it has been close to twenty years since GAO conducted a comprehensive assessment of this issue, the Committee requested a review of the accessibility of one-stop centers and WIOA services for individuals with disabilities. This report will help the Committee understand what efforts states and one-stop centers have made since WIOA's enactment to reach out to individuals with disabilities about the availability of WIOA services delivered through one-stop centers, and what challenges states have faced related to marketing and outreach to the disability community. This report will also help the Committee understand to what extent individuals with disabilities have sought and been enrolled in WIOA services and their employment outcomes, including job placements and average earnings.

U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Development Programs

- *Oversight of Job Corps Hearing*—The Committee held a hearing on June 14, 2022, titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor (June 14th Hearing),” which addressed, among several topics, DOL’s administrative action to exempt Job Corps from the *McNamara-O’Hara Service Contract Act* (SCA). The SCA applies to every contract with the United States or the District of Columbia, where the principal purpose of the contract is to furnish services in the United States through the use of service employees. Contractors and subcontractors performing on such federal contracts must observe certain minimum wage standards and provide certain fringe benefits to the service employees unless an exemption applies. Until recently, DOL has interpreted the SCA to exclude from coverage those contracts between DOL and private firms that operate Job Corps facilities. This exemption was reflected in DOL’s Field Office Handbook (FOH), which provides informal regulatory guidance on the laws enforced by DOL. During the June 14th Hearing, a Democratic Member of the Committee noted that due to the exemption from the SCA, it is challenging to get high-quality instructional staff at Job Corps Centers because local school districts can pay more and draw away talent. The Member asked U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Martin Walsh about DOL’s willingness to revisit this exemption so that Job Corps Centers can recruit and retain high quality instructional staff. At the time, Secretary Walsh responded by indicating that DOL is looking to realign, reevaluate, and strengthen Job Corps, which includes looking at the contracts to ensure that Job Corps staff is being treated fairly and paid good wages. Subsequently, on June 23, 2022, DOL announced that it deleted the exemption under SCA for federal contracts to operate Job Corps Centers by removing a section of the FOH. The effect of the change is that covered contractors now must pay the minimum wages and fringe benefits mandated by the SCA to all covered workers, making the Job

Corps Centers' wages and benefits more competitive with other organizations in the local area.

- *Oversight of Job Corps' Annual Reporting Requirement*—The Committee requested information from ETA regarding the Job Corps Annual Reports under WIOA. Under Section 159 of WIOA, DOL's Secretary is required to conduct an annual assessment of the performance of each Job Corps center and based on the assessment, the Secretary is required to take measures to continuously improve the performance of the Job Corps program. DOL must annually submit this performance report to the authorizing committees (the Committee on Education and Labor in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in the U.S. Senate). In 2022, DOL submitted, for the first time, the performance reports for 2017 through 2019. The Committee requested additional information explaining the delay in the reporting requirement, the status of the outstanding reports, and how Job Corps obtained information for the performance reporting.

- *Oversight of Job Corps Minimum Wage*—On April 27, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 14026 (E.O. 14026), *Increasing the Minimum Wage for Federal Contractors*, which, among other things, increased the minimum wage for workers performing work on or in connection with covered federal contracts to \$15 per hour beginning January 30, 2022, with annual adjustments for inflation thereafter as determined by DOL's Secretary. The Committee requested information from ETA: (1) about the reimbursements for Job Corps contractors to increase the minimum wage; (2) to better understand how the minimum wage increase is impacting Job Corps contractors; and (3) what steps ETA is taking to address the potential negative impacts of the wage increase, such as wage compression issues and the increased costs of performing the Job Corps contract.

- *Apprenticeships*—The June 14th Hearing addressed, among several topics, expanding registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships to help underrepresented groups obtain more opportunities in the workforce.

Worker Wages

- *Hearing*—The June 14th Hearing addressed, among several topics, increasing the staff of DOL's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) to better safeguard workers' pay; recover back wages to ensure that employers that have violated federal wage laws make up the difference between what employees were paid and the amount they should have been paid; and conduct rulemaking regarding employee misclassification and independent contractor issues.

- *Oversight*—On September 30, 2021, DOL's OIG issued a report titled "*COVID-19: The Pandemic Highlighted the Need to Strengthen Wage and Hour Division's Enforcement Controls*." In March 2020, Congress passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), which provided paid leave benefits for workers for COVID-19 related reasons. WHD was responsible for implementing and enforcing FFCRA's paid leave provisions. DOL's OIG conducted an audit to determine whether WHD implemented effective controls for enforcing FFCRA's paid leave provisions. DOL's OIG found that even though WHD had existing controls that the

agency used when enforcing FFCRA's paid leave provisions, these controls were not always effective and could have been stronger. Specifically, WHD failed to fully consider how different enforcement strategies may have been needed for the pandemic-specific benefits. In addition, WHD did not require staff to document all incoming inquiries and did not implement controls to ensure the proper handling of all complaints. The Committee held meetings with WHD and conducted follow-up regarding the findings in the report.

- *Work Request to GAO*—On June 6, 2018, the Committee requested that GAO evaluate WHD's practices, and, where appropriate, conduct a forensic audit of WHD's enforcement actions. In December 2020, GAO released a report titled "*Fair Labor Standards Act: Tracking Additional Complaint Data Could Improve DOL's Enforcement*," which addressed some, but not all, of the inquiries from the Committee's 2018 request. GAO noted that while completing the 2020 report, its forensic audit of WHD's enforcement actions was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the Committee met with GAO to discuss the need to complete the forensic audit, which is focused on the extent to which WHD consistently applies its enforcement tools to process wage and hour complaints.

Workplace Safety and Health

- *OSHA Hearing*—On May 25, 2022, the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing titled "Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration" (May 25th Hearing). During the hearing, Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, Douglas Parker, discussed the agency's current priorities, including proposed rulemaking to address infectious diseases, occupational heat illness, and protecting health care workers from workplace violence. OSHA's priorities also include restoring the agency's enforcement capacity by hiring more staff and continuing to respond to the threat of COVID-19.

- *Oversight of OSHA's Rulemaking and Enforcement Activities*—The Committee held meetings with OSHA to discuss the Trump Administration's failure to issue an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) to protect workers from COVID-19, the Biden Administration's efforts to develop an ETS, OSHA's response to the reported increase in injuries in the warehousing industry, and OSHA's oversight of correctional facility workers and employers during the pandemic.

- *Oversight of OSHA's Recordkeeping Requirement*—The Committee met with GAO to discuss its February 2021 report titled "*Workplace Safety and Health: Actions Needed to Improve Reporting of Summary Injury and Illness Data*." The report detailed GAO's examination of: (1) how and why recordkeeping violations changed from fiscal years 2005 to 2019; and (2) the extent to which employers report summary injury and illness data and how OSHA has taken steps to ensure compliance with this requirement. GAO found that the number of recordkeeping violations has fluctuated over the past 15 years and that employers did not report any summary injury and illness data on more than one-half of their establishments. Further, GAO concluded that OSHA has limited procedures for encouraging compliance with this reporting requirement and for penalizing employers for non-compliance. As a result of the

report, the Committee met with GAO to discuss how and why OSHA needs to increase oversight of employers' recordkeeping requirements. During the May 25th Hearing, a Democratic Member of the Committee asked Assistant Secretary Parker about OSHA's capacity to enforce the recordkeeping requirement given that the agency's current staffing levels only permit it to inspect each workplace every 100 years. Assistant Secretary Parker acknowledged the limitations of the agency's reliance on employer-provided records and confirmed that the agency is doing what it can to ensure that employers comply with the recordkeeping requirement. He also indicated that the agency needs to expand the type of data that it is collecting because there is underutilized information that would be helpful to the agency's enforcement efforts.

- *Oversight of Enforcement of Civil Rights Protections for Warehouse Workers*—There have been consistent reports about worker safety issues in Amazon's warehouse facilities, and recently the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southern District of New York and OSHA have initiated a joint investigation to examine "potential workplace hazards related, among other things, to Amazon's required pace of work for its warehouse employees." In October 2022, the Committee sent a letter to the EEOC's New York District Office to request that the office file a Commissioner's charge to investigate whether the Amazon facilities within its jurisdiction are failing to accommodate workers who may need a modification to their pace requirements and/or to determine whether the facilities are using such requirements in a way that disadvantages workers with disabilities in violation of the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*.

- *Work Request to GAO*—Recent reports have raised concerns that online retailers' use of certain workplace surveillance tools, algorithmic systems, and/or robotics programs to monitor and increase workers' productivity may be connected to an increase in worker health and safety issues in warehouses, fulfillment centers, and delivery systems. As a result, the Committee sent a request to GAO to examine the extent to which retailer-operated warehouses, fulfillment centers, and delivery systems are using surveillance tools, algorithm-based performance tracking systems, and/or robotics programs to track and increase worker productivity and whether the use of such tools has any link to worker injuries in these environments. The request asked GAO to also examine the extent to which OSHA's enforcement efforts have addressed the connection between the use of these workplace tools and the impact on worker health and safety.

Mine Safety and Health

- *Oversight of MSHA's Personnel Issues*—The Committee met with stakeholders to discuss operational issues at the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) within DOL that may impact the agency's short and long-term ability to fulfill its mission, such as the aging inspectorate workforce, the lengthy hiring process for new inspectors, and the nearly two-year process for inspectors to obtain their Authorized Representative Status credentials (AR cards), which authorizes the right of entry to any coal or other mine.

- *DOL Hearing*—The June 14th Hearing addressed, among several topics, President Biden’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 proposed budget for MSHA. The funding is necessary to restore MSHA’s enforcement capabilities to help ensure miners’ health and safety amid an expected increase in their workload due to BIL, which will likely cause an increase in production at, or an expansion of, existing mines and facilities. After the hearing, Chairman Scott submitted additional Questions for the Record regarding the agency’s plans to streamline its hiring practices for its inspectorate workforce. In response, U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Martin Walsh explained some of the process improvements DOL has implemented to streamline the hiring process, including waiving the pre-employment physical requirement for certain employees for up to a year to avoid the delays associated with scheduling the physical, reducing the number of employees on the hiring panels while also increasing the number of hiring panels to make scheduling interviews easier, and assigning dedicated staff to perform different aspects of the hiring process.

- *DOL’s OIG*—The Committee held a meeting with DOL’s OIG to discuss its FY 2023 Audit Workplan. DOL’s OIG prepares the Audit Workplan to inform DOL agencies and Congress of audits and reviews that will be initiated or completed each year. During the meeting, the Committee requested an audit of MSHA’s hiring policies and/or procedures for new inspectors to determine whether there are ways to streamline the hiring process.

Retirement Security and Pensions

- *DOL Hearing*—The June 14th Hearing addressed, among several topics, the Employment Benefits Security Administration’s (EBSA) recovery of over \$2.5 billion in retirement savings and health care benefits owed to workers in 2021. The hearing also addressed how President Biden’s FY 2023 proposed budget for EBSA would allow the agency to restore front-line enforcement and regulatory staff to help ensure the security of retirement benefits. The enforcement staff enforces, among other laws, the *Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974* (ERISA), which ensures the integrity of the country’s private employee benefit plan system. The agency’s oversight authority includes nearly 734,000 retirement plans, 2 million health plans, and 662,000 other welfare benefits plans, such as life and disability insurance. The enforcement staff also investigates benefit plan violations under ERISA, such as financial misconduct in retirement plans and medical claims that have been incorrectly denied. EBSA’s regulatory staff carries out the agency’s interpretive activities concerning the provisions of ERISA and related statutes by issuing advisory opinions, field assistance bulletins, guidance, and regulations. In addition, during the June 14th Hearing, U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Martin Walsh discussed how ARPA authorized a Special Financial Assistance Program (SFA) through the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) to help save severely underfunded multiemployer plans that enabled over three million participants and beneficiaries to continue to receive their pension benefits now and in the future.

- *Work Requests to GAO*—In May 2021, GAO released a report titled “*Employee Benefits Security Administration: Enforcement Ef-*

forts to Protect Participants' Rights in Employer-Sponsored Retirement and Health Benefit Plans." After the release of the report, the Committee held meetings with GAO to discuss the remaining evaluative questions outlined in the Committee's March 2019 letter to the Comptroller General at GAO about EBSA's enforcement efforts. As a result of these discussions, GAO agreed it will complete and release a second part to the report, which will focus on how EBSA's resources and responsibilities have changed over time, and it will include recommendations so that EBSA can be more effective in protecting the health and retirement benefits of American workers.

International Labor Rights

- *DOL Hearing*—The June 14th Hearing addressed DOL's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), which works to ensure dignity at work in the U.S. and abroad. In his testimony to the Committee, U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Martin Walsh discussed ILAB's role in supporting the first independent union elections at the General Motors plant in Silao, Mexico, and the Tridonex auto parts facility in Matamoros, Mexico. During the hearing, questions were posed about a legislative proposal to statutorily establish ILAB within DOL—where it already exists but is not codified in statute—and authorize the agency to carry out its work. Additionally, questions were asked about the steps DOL has taken to support the enforcement of Mexico's new labor laws and what DOL is doing to protect the rights of independent workers.

Guestworker Programs

- *DOL Hearing*—DOL's WHD administers various provisions of the *Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (INA)*, as amended, which authorizes the establishment of the H-2A and H-2B visa categories (the guest worker program) allowing employers to bring nonimmigrant workers to the United States to perform temporary, agricultural and non-agricultural work or services. The June 14th Hearing addressed DOL's June 2022 joint guidance with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development titled "*Guidance on Fair Recruitment Practices for Temporary Migrant Workers*," which discusses how to prevent abusive recruitment practices of prospective workers in the H-2A and H-2B visa programs. The agencies wanted the guidance to highlight and promote implementation of key best practices by governments in countries seeking to increase participation in the H-2 visa programs and by employers relying on these programs. During the hearing, U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Martin Walsh was asked whether DOL plans to include H-2 visa reform in its regulatory agenda. In response, Secretary Walsh stated that DOL is in the processing of reviewing the H-2 programs and noted that DOL had already strengthened some of the worker protections in the H-2B worker requirements.

Collective Bargaining Rights

- *Oversight*—The Committee engaged in meetings with the National Relations Labor Board (NLRB) to discuss several issues, including the status of cases in which former NLRB Board Member William J. Emanuel participated while he had a financial conflict of interest that the NLRB's Designated Agency Ethics Official deter-

mined should have disqualified him from participation in those cases. The NLRB also provided updates on the prosecution of an NLRB employee who was charged with honest services fraud and bribery for engaging in a scheme in which she provided nonpublic NLRB documents to a co-conspirator in exchange for the regular payment of cash bribes. Additionally, the NLRB provided a detailed overview of the internal administrative error that resulted in the delay of the commencement of NLRB Board Member David Prouty's term with the agency as well as the agency's response to correct the error to avoid future lapses. The NLRB also described the challenges associated with the flat funding of the agency for the past 8 years; this flat funding has negatively impacted the agency's ability to increase staff capacity during a time in which the agency has experienced a surge in the volume of cases. Additionally, the Committee asked the NLRB to explain its management's ongoing dispute with one of the agency's unions regarding telework issues; in the past, the agency has sought to reduce the number of telework days for field staff while the union is trying to maintain or increase the number of telework days for field staff. The NLRB also discussed new agency initiatives such as the joint initiative with DOL and the EEOC to combat employer retaliation under the federal laws each agency enforces. Pursuant to this initiative, the agencies plan to coordinate efforts to investigate and litigate against employers that engage in retaliatory conduct. The agencies also hope that this initiative will encourage workers who fear employer retaliation to come forward to express their concerns about workplace violations.

- *Meetings with NLRB's OIG*—The Committee met with the NLRB's OIG to discuss the status of investigations that may impact the agency's operations such as the financial conflict-of-interest investigation of former NLRB Board Member Emanuel, the delay associated with NLRB Board Member Prouty's status with the agency, the criminal investigation of an employee who sold confidential agency information to an outside consultant, and a request from an employer that NLRB's OIG investigate whether NLRB employees engaged in misconduct related to a mail-in ballot election.

- *Stakeholder Outreach*—The Committee engaged in outreach with relevant stakeholders to discuss operational and personnel issues within the NLRB such as how the agency plans to address, and whether it will bargain with the union regarding, the centralization of compliance work. This work involves NLRB staff securing compliance with NLRB Board orders, court judgments, and informal settlement agreements and had usually been handled by staff in several Regional Offices. In 2020, however, the former General Counsel centralized this work without bargaining with the union. Stakeholders expressed concerns that the centralization of this work has meant that staff without relevant experience have been performing this work. Another ongoing personnel issue discussed with stakeholders was the staffing levels at the agency, which are the lowest they have been in a half century. This impacts the agency's ability to effectively execute its mission to protect the rights of workers to organize and seek better working conditions. Additionally, the agency has experienced internal disagreements with field staff over the ability to telework; the stakeholders

believe that further limitations on telework will have a long-term negative impact on the agency's ability to recruit and retain qualified employees.

Child Nutrition and Related Issues

- *U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Hearing*—On June 23, 2022, the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services held a hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service” to explore President Biden’s FY 2023 proposed budget for infant and child nutrition programs under USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and the Biden Administration’s priorities regarding federal child nutrition programs.

- *Oversight of FNS’ Data Collection Methods*—USDA enforces Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* (Title VI) among its federally assisted programs, including the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin. FNS, state and local agencies, and other subrecipients of federal financial assistance must maintain a system to collect the racial and ethnicity data consistent with FNS policy. These data are used to determine how effectively FNS programs are reaching potential eligible persons and beneficiaries, identify areas where additional outreach is needed, assist in the selection of locations for civil rights compliance reviews, and complete reports as required. These data are also used to analyze the impact of policy changes on participants and for investigating program discrimination complaints. In previous FNS Guidance describing the data collection and reporting requirements, the Guidance stated that “visual identification may be used by institutions/sponsors to determine a beneficiary’s racial or ethnic category.” This data collection method was consistent with 1997 Guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which also stated that visual observer identification for racial and ethnicity data may be more practical in certain circumstances. Upon further review of this issue, however, USDA concluded that the 1997 OMB policy was inapplicable to CACFP and SFSP programs and that the use of visual observation and identification by CACFP institutions and facilities and SFSP sponsors is not an appropriate method for collecting race or ethnicity data in these programs. Therefore, in May 2021, FNS, FNS’ Child Nutrition Programs, and FNS’ Civil Rights Division, issued a memorandum to provide guidance to state agencies and program operators on removing visual observation and identification as an allowable practice in obtaining race and ethnicity data from the participants in CACFP and SFSP. Instead, state agencies and program operators have been directed to use data collection methods based on self-identification and self-reporting. The Committee engaged in meetings with FNS to discuss the implications of this memorandum such as whether it will have a negative impact on the collection of the data, alternative sources that may be available for this kind of data, and guidance that FNS is providing to state agencies and program operators as they adjust to the removal of the visual observer data collection method. The Committee also discussed with FNS the supplemental memorandum the agency issued in June 2022 to provide clarification on

questions related to the May 2021 memorandum such as the purpose of the requirement to collect racial and ethnicity data, which programs are covered by the change in the data collection, and how program operators should respond if they are unable to collect this data for all participants.

- *Oversight of FNS' Role in Responding to the Formula Shortage*—Between September 2021 and January 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) received information about four cases of illness or death in infants who had consumed powdered infant formula. After investigating and learning that each of these infants had consumed powdered formula manufactured at Abbott Nutrition's (Abbott) formula production facility in Sturgis, Michigan, and that there were unsanitary conditions at the facility, on February 17, 2022, the FDA warned consumers not to use certain Abbott powdered infant formula products from the Sturgis facility. That same day, Abbott voluntarily ceased production of formula products at the Sturgis facility and initiated a voluntary recall of certain formula products. Although the recall and temporary pause in formula production was a necessary public health measure, it further exacerbated supply chain issues impacting the availability of formula products due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, within weeks of the recall announcement, members of the public around the country expressed difficulty finding sufficient formula in retail stores and in online marketplaces. FNS oversees the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), which provides federal grants to states for, among other things, supplemental foods for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women and to infants and children up to age 5. WIC serves about half of all infants born in the United States, which means that the disruption to the formula supply directly impacted many WIC participants. Because WIC state agencies have rebate contracts with infant formula manufacturers, shortly after Abbott announced the recall of certain powdered formulas, FNS issued waivers to the WIC state agencies to give them the flexibility they needed to increase access to infant formula for WIC participants. The Committee engaged in meetings with FNS to discuss the implementation of the waivers, the technical assistance FNS was providing to state agencies related to the waiver process, whether the waivers would be extended, and how the waivers were helping WIC participants obtain more access to infant formula given the ongoing supply shortages in certain areas of the country.

- *Oversight of USDA's Response to the Formula Shortage*—Abbott's February 2022 voluntary recall of certain formula products and temporary pause in the production of those products created a ripple effect that resulted in a supply shortage of formula products across the country. This shortage caused many families, particularly rural and low-income families, to manage their children's formula needs without reliable, alternative sources of quality formula. As a result, on June 2, 2022, the Committee sent a letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack requesting that USDA coordinate with HHS to conduct a feasibility study to consider whether additional measures can be taken by the manufacturers who contract with WIC or the USDA to ensure the availability of a continuous 30-day supply of formula products, in-

cluding specialty formula products consumed by individuals with metabolic or gastrointestinal disorders, in case of future emergencies such as another formula recall event, a public health emergency or disaster, or a supply chain disruption.

- *Oversight of Infant Formula Price Gouging*—During the past few months, media reports have shown that unscrupulous third-party vendors on online marketplaces are selling infant formula at significantly higher prices, advertising fake products, and employing other deceptive tactics to scam consumers during the infant formula shortage. On June 13, 2022, the Committee sent a joint letter with the Committee on Energy and Commerce to Chair Lina Khan of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to request that the agency take swift action to prevent and deter exploitative and deceptive practices by third-party vendors that use online marketplaces to sell infant formula.

Health Care

- *HHS Hearing*—The April 6th Hearing explored President Biden’s FY 2023 proposed budget for HHS that included investments to improve the affordability of health coverage, cut the costs of prescription drugs, address the mental health and substance abuse crises, and advance health equity, among other priorities.

- *Vaccine Requirement Implementation*—In Questions for the Record submitted after the April 6th Hearing, a Democratic Member of the Committee requested information regarding compliance with, and enforcement of, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ (CMS) rule requiring health care providers participating in Medicare and Medicaid to ensure that 100 percent of their staff are vaccinated against COVID–19, unless they are exempt for medical or religious reasons. In response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra stated that the implementation of the rule will help save lives. Secretary Becerra also stated that CMS believes that the vaccination rule helps stabilize the health care system and eliminate potential incentives for staff to migrate to different care settings or across state lines. CMS also believes that the vaccination rule will ensure that a significant number of health care staff are vaccinated across settings, reducing staff quarantines and improving safety no matter where patients seek care. Finally, Secretary Becerra indicated that CMS will be conducting surveys to assess facilities’ compliance with the vaccination rule, and it will take additional steps, as needed, to ensure compliance.

- *No Surprise Act Implementation*—The Committee played a leading role in the development of the *No Surprises Act* (NSA) during the 116th Congress to protect consumers in situations in which they receive unexpected and expensive medical bills for out-of-network care. On November 19, 2021, the Committee sent a letter to DOL, HHS, and the U.S. Department of the Treasury (jointly, the Departments) to express support for the Departments’ rulemaking to implement the NSA—this rule established an independent dispute resolution process that will help protect patients from surprise medical bills and allow providers and health plans to resolve payment disputes, subject to key guardrails that encourage negotiation and ensure a fair payment amount is achieved. On January 1, 2022, a nationwide ban on surprise billing took effect, eliminating

many of the most egregious billing practices and providing peace of mind for tens of millions of consumers so that they will not be subject to devastating out-of-network bills. The NSA included \$500 million in total appropriations for FY 2021 through FY 2024. Congress appropriated these funds to the Departments to implement the NSA. The Committee engaged in meetings with DOL, HHS, and OMB to discuss the allocation of the \$500 million appropriation between the Departments and how each has been using the appropriated funds to implement the requirements under the NSA. The Committee also engaged in meetings with HHS to discuss the implementation of provisions in the NSA, such as the requirement that the Departments establish an advisory committee for reviewing options to improve disclosure of charges and fees for ground ambulance services, inform consumers of insurance options for such services, and protect consumers from surprise billing. The Departments have taken some steps to set up this advisory committee but have not established the committee to date. On December 9, 2022, the Committee sent a letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra to urge him to take immediate action to establish the advisory committee as required by the NSA.

- *Formula Shortage*—Abbott’s February 2022 voluntary recall of certain formula products and temporary pause in the production of those products created a ripple effect that resulted in a supply shortage of formula products across the country. This shortage caused many families, particularly rural and low-income families, to face difficult choices regarding their formula needs. As a result, on June 2, 2022, the Committee sent a letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra requesting that HHS coordinate with USDA to conduct a feasibility study to consider whether additional measures can be taken by HHS to ensure the availability of a continuous 30-day supply of infant formula products, including specialty formula products consumed by individuals with metabolic or gastrointestinal disorders, in case of future emergencies such as another formula recall event, a public health emergency or disaster, or a supply chain disruption.

- *Formula Recall*—The Committee engaged in several meetings with the FDA to discuss the agency’s oversight of Abbott’s formula recall and how the agency plans to mitigate the collateral impact of the recall on members of the public who have been experiencing issues with obtaining access to reliable sources of formula. The Committee also met with HHS’ OIG to discuss the audit of FDA’s oversight of formula manufacturers.

- *Work Request to GAO*—The ACA instituted crucial consumer protections that have made health coverage more reliable and affordable for consumers. These reforms include: prohibitions on pre-existing condition exclusions and discrimination based on health status; requiring plans to cover essential health benefits; and allowing dependents to stay on their parents’ coverage until age 26. However, in contrast to ACA plans, plans such as those offered by Farm Bureaus and health care sharing ministries may be able to avoid the law’s consumer protections and therefore could pose a risk to those who purchase such offerings. As a result, the Committee requested that GAO study the impact of health care offerings by state Farm Bureaus, health care sharing ministries, and

other arrangements that are exempt from certain federal and state requirements for health insurance to help federal policymakers develop a better understanding of how such plans operate and how they impact the regulated markets.

- *Work Request to GAO*—Students in higher education face economic challenges that can impact their ability to afford and complete a college degree or credential. One of these challenges is navigating the process of finding and enrolling in health insurance and then paying for health care. The ACA and ARPA increased the number of affordable—and often free—coverage options available to students and their families. The Committee is interested in understanding the extent to which students in higher education have successfully enrolled in health insurance and what opportunities may exist to increase health care coverage and lower costs. As such, the Committee sent a request to GAO to study college students’ access to health insurance.

- *Oversight*—The Committee engaged in meetings with HHS to discuss, among other topics, HHS’ response to the Committee’s June 2022 request that HHS coordinate with USDA to conduct a feasibility study regarding a stockpile of formula products in the event of future emergencies. Discussions also included HHS’ implementation of the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* such as the provisions that require that: (1) HHS provide technical assistance and issue guidance to states on improving access to Medicaid and CHIP telehealth services; (2) HHS issue updated school-based services guidance; and (3) HHS and ED establish a Technical Assistance Center to support the delivery of Medicaid-covered school-based services.

- *Contraception Coverage*—On October 6, 2021, the Committee joined with the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Oversight and Reform (jointly, the Committees) to send a letter to HHS, DOL, and the U.S. Department of the Treasury (jointly, the Departments) expressing concerns because the Committees were receiving information regarding numerous denials of coverage and extensive medical management requirements that have limited individuals’ access to the full range of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved contraceptives. The Committees expressed that these denials and medical management requirements appear to violate the ACA’s regulations, which mandate that group health plans and all issuers of group or individual health insurance coverage (other than grandfathered health plans) cover without cost-sharing the full range of FDA-approved contraceptives. The Committees requested the Departments’ assistance in ensuring appropriate consumer access to the full range of FDA-approved contraceptives as required by law and that the Departments determine whether additional enforcement actions or issuance of additional guidance may be necessary to address this issue.

Supporting Communities

- *AmeriCorps*—The Committee held two hearings about the Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps): (1) on December 1, 2021, titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Corporation for National and Community Service”; and (2) on December 14, 2022, titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of

the Corporation for National and Community Service.” Both hearings examined the financial management concerns identified by the AmeriCorps’ external auditors and AmeriCorps’ OIG. These hearings satisfied the requirement under Rule XI, clause 2(o) of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives that each committee hold a hearing when an agency under its jurisdiction has received a disclaimed financial audit. In addition to the hearing, the Committee held quarterly meetings with AmeriCorps leadership and AmeriCorps’ OIG to ensure that progress was being made by the agency to implement the recommendations of the external auditors.

ADDITIONAL OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

K–12 Education

- *Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)*—The Committee held a hearing on June 28, 2022, titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Bureau of Indian Education,” to examine the financial management concerns identified by GAO’s placement of BIE on GAO’s High Risk List. Since 2013, GAO has issued reports on significant concerns at BIE schools and placed them on the High Risk List in 2017. GAO’s findings include: lack of management and accountability of BIE in managing and using federal funds; lack of clear roles and coordination between BIE and the Board of Indian Affairs (BIA); inadequate internal procedures and controls; lack of leadership team members, staff, and personnel, with high turnover of personnel, especially in rural areas; inadequate oversight of school spending, especially as it relates to education facilities and school construction projects; and insufficient support for students with disabilities. This hearing satisfied the requirement under Rule XI, Clause 2(p) of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives that each committee hold a hearing on issues under its jurisdiction that are included on GAO’s High Risk List.

- *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Compliance*—The Committee conducted oversight related to information sharing between Pasco County School District in Florida and local law enforcement agencies. Investigative reporting showed that the school district was sharing information with local law enforcement to identify potential “at-risk” youth, but this resulted in law enforcement harassing those students and their families. As a result, the Committee sent two letters to ED relating to compliance with FERPA, which is a federal law that affords parents the right to have access to their children’s education records, the right to seek to have the records amended, and the right to have some control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the education records. In the first letter, the Committee requested ED’s OIG follow up on its 2018 audit of ED’s implementation of FERPA and conduct another audit to assess ED’s implementation of FERPA and ED’s enforcement and monitoring process of states’ and school districts’ compliance with FERPA. In the second letter, the Committee recommended changes to ED’s implementation of FERPA, including the guidance ED provides to states and school districts on compliance with FERPA. Specifically, the Committee requested ED issue guidance related to how school districts should assess data sharing agreements with law enforcement agencies such as the one in Pasco County.

Higher Education

- *Online Program Managers*—The Committee received a GAO report based on its examination of ED’s oversight of Online Program Managers (OPMs). OPMs are third-party entities that are contracted by IHEs to handle the management and operations of a variety of online education programs and support services. OPMs’ contracted duties often include the recruitment of students. In the 1992 reauthorization of HEA, Congress included what is known as the “incentive compensation ban” to ensure that postsecondary recruiters and admissions counselors are not incentivized based on per-student enrollment quotas. OPMs are exempted from the incentive compensation ban but are subject to safeguards required of OPMs and other third parties pursuant to a guidance from ED called the “bundled services exception.” ED is tasked with ensuring compliance with the incentive compensation ban and the safeguards of the bundled services exception. In its investigation, GAO found that ED uses two tools to monitor IHEs and OPMs and their compliance with the incentive compensation ban and the bundled services exception, respectively—independent compliance audits by external auditors and program compliance reviews by ED—and that these tools are most likely not effective. The Committee sent a letter to ED on December 2, 2022, supporting ED’s decision to implement GAO’s recommendations to better enforce the incentive compensation ban and requesting that ED conduct a review of the bundled services exception.

- *Personal Liability*—The Committee wrote two letters to ED, on August 16, 2021, and August 9, 2022, requesting that ED use its existing authority under HEA to hold owners, executives, and board members of defunct for-profit and converted non-profit colleges individually responsible for liabilities of the institution to the federal government. In January 2022, ED announced a new policy requiring private colleges and companies with at least a 50 percent ownership interest in them to sign Program Participation Agreements (PPAs). According to ED, this new policy will ensure that companies that own IHEs are held responsible for funds owed to the federal government, including liabilities arising from closed school loan discharges and borrower defense to repayment claims, even if the IHE closes.

Juvenile Justice

- *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) Compliance*—The Committee held oversight meetings with DOJ’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) on their monitoring of states’ compliance with Title II of JJDP. Title II requires states to establish plans for the administration of juvenile justice in their states and submit annual reports to OJJDP concerning their progress in implementing the plans in order to receive grant funding from OJJDP. According to OJJDP, no states were in compliance with the requirements of Title II, mostly because previous administrations were not reviewing compliance strictly and states were providing vague information for review. As a result, OJJDP withheld grants to all states until they were in compliance with the Title II requirements. The Committee requested that OJJDP keep the Committee informed of OJJDP’s activities to hold states accountable to Title II requirements. The

Committee urged OJDDP to provide additional guidance and technical assistance to states on how states can become compliant with the Title II requirements. OJDDP has engaged with and provided technical assistance to states; OJDDP has also reviewed and approved states' revised compliance plans and released grant funding.

- *COVID-19 in Juvenile Justice Facilities*—The Committee wrote a letter to OJDDP on November 18, 2021, about states' compliance with JJDP requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee was concerned that due to policies and practices implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic, OJDDP and state oversight agencies were not able to properly monitor juvenile facilities to review: (1) whether basic safety measures were being implemented; (2) whether the facilities were in compliance with the core protections found in JJDP; and (3) whether the facilities' practices to combat COVID-19 resulted in harm to the juveniles in the facilities, such as increased use of solitary confinement, juveniles having limited contact with their families, suspension of education classes, and lack of access to hygiene products and personal protective equipment (PPE). Prior to the Committee's letter, OJDDP issued two guidance documents to assist juvenile justice facilities during the pandemic: (1) OJDDP Guidance for Juvenile Justice Facilities During COVID-19 Pandemic, and (2) Detection and Mitigation of COVID-19 in Confinement Facilities Guidance. In response to the Committee's letter, OJDDP highlighted guidance they provided to states in May 2020 about designating compliance monitors as essential workers and providing them vaccinations and PPE so that these compliance monitors could conduct monitoring activities at juvenile facilities. Additionally, OJDDP held four regional meetings between October and November 2021 in order to train state juvenile justice agencies about JJDP requirements.

- *Youth PROMISE Act and Prevention Programs*—The Committee conducted oversight of how OJDDP was providing grants to juvenile justice prevention programs and whether the grants were in compliance with congressional intent pursuant to the *Youth PROMISE Act* passed as part of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act in 2018.

Child Care

- *Maltreatment of Youth in Residential Facilities*—The Committee received a GAO report after it examined the maltreatment of youth in residential facilities and identified a lack of oversight by two federal agencies with primary responsibility over such facilities: HHS and ED. As a result of the report, the Committee engaged with both HHS and ED to urge the agencies to provide better guidance to states and facilities regarding proper treatment of youth in their care as well as to facilitate information sharing among states on practices for preventing and addressing maltreatment in residential facilities.

- *Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Oversight*—The Committee engaged in meetings with HHS on CCDBG and CCDF, which is authorized under CCDBG. Administered by states, territories, and Tribes, CCDF is federal funding that provides financial assistance to low-income families to access childcare. Under CCDBG, states are required to annually submit a CCDF state plan to HHS. These

state plans must show how the state is allocating CCDF dollars and how the state is complying with the health and safety requirements under CCDBG. States are permitted to request waivers from certain CCDBG requirements as part of the state plan review process. The Committee conducted oversight of how HHS was reviewing states' requests for such waivers. The Committee also requested that HHS' OIG include a comprehensive review of HHS' state plan waiver review process in its audit plans.

Unemployment Insurance (UI)

- *UI Hearing*—On September 21, 2022, the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing titled “Examining the Administration of the Unemployment Insurance System.” This hearing focused on GAO’s recent reports examining the implementation of the temporary UI CARES Act programs, which addressed long-standing challenges in the UI system exacerbated by the COVID–19 pandemic, such as meeting the needs of unemployed workers and mitigating financial loss. The hearing also addressed why GAO included the UI system on its High Risk List in June 2022. Other testimony during the hearing discussed how the pandemic UI programs helped marginalized workers and communities, the need for structural reforms in the UI system, and personal experiences when applying for and receiving pandemic benefits from one of the UI CARES Act programs.

- *DOL’s OIG’s UI Report*—The Committee met with DOL’s OIG to discuss the findings from its September 2022 Alert Memorandum titled “Potentially Fraudulent Unemployment Insurance Payments in High-Risk Areas Increased to \$45.6 Billion.” The report found that between March 2020 and April 2022, there has been \$45.6 billion in potentially fraudulent UI benefits paid in four specific high-risk areas to individuals with Social Security numbers: (1) filed in multiple states; (2) of deceased persons; (3) used to file UI claims with suspicious email accounts; and (4) of federal prisoners. The report also found that ETA has not taken sufficient action to control fraud, and notes that ETA has failed to implement DOL’s OIG’s prior recommendations with respect to fraud, including establishing effective controls in collaboration with state workforce agencies (SWAs) and working with Congress to establish legislation requiring SWAs to cross-match high-risk areas. Moreover, the report states that despite DOL’s OIG’s continued efforts to identify potentially fraudulent payments to ineligible claimants, it continues to experience delays in obtaining the needed UI data because DOL interprets its UI regulations as prohibiting ETA from informing SWAs that they are required to provide UI data to DOL’s OIG for both audit and investigative purposes.

- *Response to DOL’s OIG’s UI Report*—The Committee held a meeting with ETA to discuss the agency’s response to DOL’s OIG’s UI report. During the meeting, ETA described the agency’s ongoing and evolving efforts to combat fraud within the UI system and confirmed that the agency and DOL’s OIG disagree on the requirements for disclosure of SWA UI data to DOL’s OIG. ETA indicated that the agency plans to address the disagreement over the disclosure requirement by updating the agency’s regulations but also acknowledged that the agency will need, and is planning to provide,

an interim solution for this issue since the proposed rules may not be finalized before early 2025.

Workplace Surveillance Tools

- *Work Request to GAO*—The shift to remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted a rise in employers’ digital surveillance of workers through the use of surveillance technology or “bossware” in both telework and office settings. The use of this kind of technology has implications for workers’ privacy rights and civil rights. Therefore, the Committee requested that GAO assess employers’ use of bossware to monitor workers in telework and office settings and how the use of the technology impacts workers. Additionally, the Committee requested that GAO examine the extent to which the enforcement efforts of federal labor and employment agencies such as DOL, the NLRB, and the EEOC, have addressed the connection between employers’ use of bossware and the impact on workers’ rights.

- *Oversight of Civil Rights Protections*—Employers are increasingly using sophisticated automated technology systems and artificial intelligence (AI) to assess and monitor job candidates and workers. These systems can, for example, track workers’ locations, activate webcams and microphones on workers’ devices, use facial recognition to assess workers’ attention to their computer screens, and store sensitive data about workers. Employers’ use of these systems and technology to make employment decisions implicates federal antidiscrimination protections, including, for example, those under Title VII of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* (Title VII). Therefore, in December 2022, the Committee sent a letter to the EEOC to request that the agency issue guidance discussing the ways in which employers’ use of these systems and AI technology can impact workers’ rights under Title VII. The EEOC has already issued similar guidance to explain how employers’ use of AI can impact workers’ rights under the ADA.

COMMITTEE-INITIATED CORRESPONDENCE

January 11, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Russell Vought, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and Mr. Jeffrey Rosen, Acting Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), expressing concern regarding a draft final rule titled *Amendment of the Title VI Regulations* and requesting that OMB provide the text of the draft final rule as well as any justification DOJ has articulated for bypassing the normal notice and comment period. This was a joint letter with House Committee on the Judiciary Chair Jerrold Nadler and House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Chair Carolyn Maloney.

January 11, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting to join as an addressee on any current or future studies of labor and worker protection issues that GAO conducts in response to section 19010 of Title IX of Public Law 116–136, the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act*.

January 19, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Mitchell Zais, Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, raising concerns regarding reports that a public-school district is transmitting stu-

dent education records to a local sheriff's office so that the sheriff's office can develop a list of students "destined for a life of crime."

March 1, 2021—Letter to Mr. Jeffrey Zients, Coordinator and Counselor to the President of the United States, Executive Office of the President; Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and Mr. Al Stewart, Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), urging the CDC and DOL to adequately address the risk of aerosol transmission of COVID-19 in guidance and regulations. This was a joint letter with House Committee on Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro, House Energy and Commerce Chair Frank Pallone, Jr., House Committee on Oversight and Reform's Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Chair James Clyburn, and House Committee on Education and Labor's Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Chair Alma Adams.

March 25, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Martin Walsh, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, urging the Department to adjust the *Fair Labor Standards Act's* overtime salary test threshold to its historical high point to ensure salaried workers receive adequate overtime protections. This was a joint letter with Rep. Mark Takano (CA), Rep. Alma Adams (NC), and Sen. Sherrod Brown (OH).

April 6, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, encouraging the Department to announce the availability of a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for qualified eligible individuals following the conclusion of the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021's* premium support program for job-based coverage. This was a joint letter with House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chair Frank Pallone, Jr., House Committee on Ways and Means Chair Richard Neal, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chair Patty Murray, and Senate Committee on Finance Chair Ron Wyden.

April 12, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Martin Walsh, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, supporting the Department's proposal to withdraw the January 2021 final interpretive rule entitled *Independent Contractor Status under the Fair Labor Standards Act*. This was a joint letter with 79 other Members of the House of Representatives.

April 12, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Martin Walsh, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, supporting the Department's proposal to withdraw the January 2020 final interpretive rule entitled *Joint Employer Status Under the Fair Labor Standards Act*. This was a joint letter with 84 other Members of the House of Representatives.

April 16, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Gloria Steele, Acting Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), requesting that the agency suspend all pending actions related to the restructuring and redesign of USAID's Global Labor Program. This was a joint letter with House Committee on Foreign Relations Chair Gregory Meeks, House Committee on Ways and Means Chair Richard Neal, and House Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations Chair Barbara Lee.

- April 19, 2021—Letter to the Honorable JooYeun Chang, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, regarding congressional intent of Section 2204(c) of the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*, which provides resources for “culturally specific community-based organizations.” This was a joint letter with Rep. Pramila Jayapal (WA).
- May 6, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting GAO review target date funds to determine if these retirement investments to which millions of families now entrust their financial futures are working as advertised and providing the retirement security promised. This was a joint letter with Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chair Patty Murray.
- May 12, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), urging the Department to revoke harmful waivers that have promoted discrimination and to expeditiously re-regulate to restore the full antidiscrimination protections for HHS programs.
- June 2, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, requesting responses to outstanding questions for the record from the 116th congressional session.
- June 2, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Martin Walsh, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, regarding the Department’s implementation of President Biden’s January 21, 2021, Executive Order 13999, *Protecting Worker Health and Safety*, requesting information concerning the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s consideration of an Emergency Temporary Standard to protect workers from COVID-19.
- June 2, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Sandra Bruce, Deputy Inspector General Delegated the Duties of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education, requesting the Office of Inspector General follow up its 2018 audit of the Department’s implementation of the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA).
- June 2, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Sandra Bruce, Deputy Inspector General Delegated the Duties of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education, requesting the Office of Inspector General provide information underlying its May 13, 2021, analysis that demonstrated that the Department improperly awarded nearly \$5,000,000 in Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Grants.
- June 3, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, regarding the Department’s process for reviewing, approving, and monitoring for-profit college conversions to non-profit institutions; raising several issues demonstrating that the Department and the Internal Revenue Service must take steps to reform their processes and halt the approval of all conversions until they finalize those reforms; and requesting responses to several questions related to these issues.
- June 7, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting that GAO examine the extent of college student food insecurity, enrollment in the Supplemental Nutri-

- tion Assistance Program (SNAP) among eligible college students, and how college students were affected by the removal of certain eligibility restrictions to SNAP for college students during the COVID-19 national emergency. The letter also requests that GAO assess the considerations and implications of extending this policy after the COVID-19 emergency ends. This was a joint letter with House Agriculture Committee Chair David Scott.
- June 25, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting a review of faculty diversity at institutions of higher education (IHEs). Specifically, the letter requested GAO examine what is known about the racial composition of faculty at IHEs and to what extent the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission have taken steps to promote faculty diversity and prevent racial discrimination in faculty hiring, promotion, and compensation.
- June 30, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, regarding an extension on the pause on federally-held student loan payments, interest, and collections through early 2022. This was a joint letter with Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chair Patty Murray.
- July 27, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting GAO examine how the 2020 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) have been promoted and implemented within federal agencies. This was a joint letter with House Committee on Agriculture Chair David Scott.
- August 9, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, recommending changes in the Department's implementation of the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*, especially when considering data sharing agreements with law enforcement agencies.
- August 11, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Charles Rettig, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, requesting a review of the non-profit tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of Grand Canyon University, which is a former for-profit that converted to become a non-profit institution of higher education.
- August 11, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Charles Rettig, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, requesting a review of the non-profit tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of University of Arizona Global Campus, which is former for-profit that converted to become a non-profit institution of higher education.
- August 16, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, requesting a review of the authority granted under the *Higher Education Act* that permits the Secretary to pursue personal liability for debts owed by institutions against the owners and executives of those institutions.
- August 23, 2021—Letter to Dr. Michale McComis, Executive Director, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC), requesting information about ACCSC's reported accreditation of two institutions—University of Northern New Jer-

- sey and University of Farmington—as part of two sting operations run by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- August 23, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Martin Walsh, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, submitting comments supporting the Department’s proposed rule published June 23, 2021, regarding use of the tip credit for workers performing “dual jobs” under the *Fair Labor Standards Act*. This was a joint letter with House Committee on Education and Labor’s Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Chair Alma Adams and Reps. Mark Takano (CA), Suzanne Bonamici (OR), and Pramila Jayapal (WA).
- September 15, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting that Chairman Scott be added as a co-requestor of GAO’s study concerning performance information in *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* programs. This study was originally requested by Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chair Patty Murray.
- September 29, 2021—Letter to Ms. Lori Ketcham, Associate General Counsel and Designated Agency Ethics Official, National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), requesting a document related to the NLRB Office of the Inspector General’s investigation of former NLRB Board Member William Emanuel.
- September 29, 2021—Letter to Ms. Lori Ketcham, Associate General Counsel and Designated Agency Ethics Official, National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), requesting the production of former NLRB Member William Emanuel’s Public Financial Disclosure Reports. These reports served as the basis of the NLRB Office of the Inspector General’s May 2021 investigation into former Member Emanuel’s conflicts of interest.
- October 1, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, regarding states’ compliance with policies derived from the *United States v. Fordice* decision and their impacts on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). This was a joint letter with House Committee on Education and Labor’s Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Chair Frederica Wilson.
- October 6, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Honorable Martin Walsh, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, and the Honorable Janet Yellen, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Treasury, urging strong enforcement of the *Affordable Care Act’s* requirements that ensure consumers have access to the full range of U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved contraceptives without any cost-sharing. This was a joint letter with House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chair Frank Pallone, Jr. and House Committee on Ways and Means Chair Richard Neal.
- October 14, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting that GAO study the impact of health care offerings by state Farm Bureaus, health care sharing ministries, and other health care arrangements that are exempt from certain federal and state requirements for health insurance. This was a joint letter with House Committee on Education and

- Labor's Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Chair Mark DeSaulnier.
- October 15, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting a GAO study on the implementation and enforcement of Title IX of the *Education Amendments of 1972* in athletics at the collegiate level. This was a joint letter with House Committee on Education and Labor's Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Chair Suzanne Bonamici.
- November 4, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting Chairman Scott be added as a co-requestor of GAO's review of how the federal government's equal opportunity complaint process and anti-harassment programs can better prevent and remedy unlawful employment discrimination and advance equal opportunity in the workplace.
- November 18, 2021—Letter to Ms. Chyrl Jones, Acting Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, regarding the office's oversight of juvenile detention centers during COVID-19, balancing compliance with the *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP)*, and navigating the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- November 19, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Martin Walsh, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, the Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Honorable Janet Yellen, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Treasury, expressing support for the recent Interim Final Rule entitled *Requirements Related to Surprise Billing; Part II*. This was a joint letter with Ranking Member Virginia Foxx.
- December 8, 2021—Letter to Ms. Tina Williams, Director, Division of Policy and Program Development, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, expressing support for the agency's *Proposal to Rescind Rule Implementing Legal Requirements Regarding the Equal Opportunity Clause's Religious Exemption*.
- December 14, 2021—Letter to the Honorable Doug Parker, Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, requesting information about the decision to publish a final COVID-19 standard to protect health care workers.
- January 26, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, expressing strong support for the policies included in the proposed *Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2023*. This was a joint letter with House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chair Frank Pallone, Jr., House Committee on Ways and Means Chair Richard Neal, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chair Patty Murray, and Senate Committee on Finance Chair Ron Wyden.
- January 31, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, requesting a review of the nonprofit status of Everglades College for the purpose of Title IV

- funding eligibility of a converted non-profit institution of higher education under the *Higher Education Act of 1965*.
- February 3, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting that GAO study how state agencies are using state administrative expense funds to support the administration of federal child nutrition programs for schools and institutions. This was a joint letter with Ranking Member Virginia Foxx.
- February 15, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, requesting that the presidential budget request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 include \$355 million for the National Labor Relations Board, a level that would restore the agency’s funding to its FY 2010 level when adjusted for inflation. This was a joint letter with House Committee on Education and Labor’s Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Chair Mark DeSaulnier.
- February 22, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting underlying documents and workpapers that GAO reviewed as part of a study on income-based repayment.
- March 10, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, providing comments to the Department’s negotiated rulemaking proposals as they relate to holding executives of for-profit colleges personally liable.
- April 11, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing comments to the transitional rule entitled *Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium* published in the Federal Register on February 7, 2022. This was a joint letter with 17 Democratic Members of the Committee.
- April 12, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting that GAO study minors under 18 years of age serving as a primary or secondary caregiver for a family member, known as caregiving youth, and how the federal government can support this growing population. This was a joint letter with Reps. Barbara Lee (CA) and Lois Frankel (FL).
- April 13, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting that GAO study one-stop centers’ accessibility for job seekers with disabilities.
- April 15, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, requesting that the Department make changes needed to fix the income-driven repayment program. This was a joint letter with Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chair Patty Murray.
- April 29, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting a GAO study on the utilization of Assistive Technology (AT) by K–12 schools in order to support students with disabilities, including the compatibility of AT with other technology used by schools during the COVID–19 pandemic.

- June 13, 2022—Letter to Ms. Linda Khan, Chair, Federal Trade Commission (FTC), requesting the agency issue a public advisory to encourage online marketplaces to implement measures to detect and prevent exploitative and deceptive practices by third-party vendors selling formula, and to continue to highlight that the FTC can and will use its authority to enforce federal consumer protection laws in order prevent fraud, deception, and unfair business practices.
- June 28, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, expressing support for the Department’s efforts to pursue rulemaking to adopt the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board’s 2017 *Standards for Accessible Medical Diagnostic Equipment*.
- July 8, 2022—Letter to Mr. Ali Khawar, Acting Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, requesting clarification regarding enforcement processes of the Employee Benefits Security Administration. This was a joint letter with House Committee on Education and Labor’s Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Chair Mark DeSaulnier.
- August 4, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting GAO study the factors that impact access to health insurance coverage for college students. This was a joint letter with Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chair Patty Murray.
- August 5, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, supporting the Administration’s plans to engage in rulemaking with regard to the *Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in the Federal Agencies’ Programs and Activities* final rules for nine departments and agencies.
- August 9, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, requesting additional information about the actions the Department is taking to hold owners, executives, and board members of for-profit and converted non-profit institutions accountable and personally liable, and specifically about institutions that have had borrower defense claims approved by the Department—including in the *Sweet v. Cardona* settlement—and continue to operate.
- August 10, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, providing comments to a Notice for Proposed Rulemaking on seven topics: borrower defense to repayment, pre-dispute arbitration and class action waivers, interest capitalization, closed school discharge, total and permanent disability discharge, false certification discharge, and public service loan forgiveness.
- August 25, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, providing comments to a Notice for Proposed Rulemaking on three topics: prison education programs, closing the 90/10 loophole, and institutional conversions.
- September 12, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, providing comments to a

- Notice for Proposed Rulemaking on Title IX of the *Educational Amendments of 1972*.
- October 3, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, commenting on the proposed rule, *Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities*, implementing Section 1557 of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*. This was a joint letter with House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chair Frank Pallone, Jr. and House Committee on Ways and Means Chair Richard Neal.
- October 3, 2022—Letter to Timothy Riera, Acting District Director for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s New York District Office, requesting that the office file a Commissioner’s Charge to determine whether the Amazon facilities within its jurisdiction that have been using surveillance tools and productivity requirements have been complying with the reasonable accommodation requirements under the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*, as amended.
- October 5, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting a GAO study on employers’ increasing use of digital surveillance in and outside of the workplace.
- October 7, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting a GAO study on the implementation and enforcement of Title IX of the *Education Amendments of 1972* by institutions of higher education, focusing on the pregnancy and parenting protections provided by Title IX. This was a joint letter with House Committee on Education and Labor’s Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Chair Suzanne Bonamici.
- October 7, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting a GAO study on how state and local education agencies identify students that are English Language Learners and students with disabilities and the effectiveness of guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Education to state and local education agencies on how to best identify these students. This was a joint letter with Reps. Raúl Grijalva (AZ) and Adriano Espaillat (NY).
- October 27, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, requesting information about the Federal Work Study Experimental Site.
- October 27, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting a GAO study on students’ access to sexual and reproductive health care and how the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* decision impacted access to such care.
- November 3, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting that GAO provide a comprehensive assessment of the COBRA premium assistance program established by the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*.

- December 2, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, requesting a review of the bundled services exception guidance to the incentive compensation ban as well as information about the Department's plans to conduct more robust oversight over institutions of higher education and their relationships with online program managers (OPMs). This was a joint letter with House Committee on Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro, Senate Committee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions Chair Patty Murray, and Senators Elizabeth Warren (MA) and Tina Smith (MN).
- December 7, 2022—Letter to Ms. Roxanne Rothschild, Executive Secretary, National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), expressing support for the NLRB's proposed rule that would return to the traditional standard for determining when employees have joint employers under the *National Labor Relations Act*. This was a joint letter with 52 other Members of the House of Representatives.
- December 7, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting that GAO review school districts that host the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program and these school districts' compliance with the requirements of Title IX of the *Education Amendments of 1972*. This was a joint letter with House Committee on Education and Labor's Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Chair Suzanne Bonamici.
- December 9, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, urging establishment of the Advisory Committee on Ground Ambulance and Patient Billing. This was a joint letter with Ranking Member Virginia Foxx.
- December 14, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Lisa Gomez, Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, encouraging the issuance of guidance to clarify the application of compensation disclosure requirements with respect to group health plan service providers. This was a joint letter with Ranking Member Virginia Foxx.
- December 19, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, providing informal comment on the nonregulatory guidance document *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* issued in support of the Stronger Connections Grant Program.
- December 20, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting GAO study the need for federal data privacy laws for retirement plans. This was a joint letter with Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chair Patty Murray.
- December 21, 2022—Letter to the Honorable Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting that GAO conduct a study on Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE)-funded programs, which are programs funded by the U.S. government that teach abstinence only until marriage (AOUM) education. This request asks GAO to study the effectiveness and medical accuracy of

SRAE-funded programs, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' ability to effectively conduct oversight of these programs, and whether these programs are in compliance with federal anti-discrimination law.

OFFICIAL COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED ENTIRELY
REMOTELY OR WITH REMOTE PARTICIPATION

February 8, 2021—Full Committee Organizational Meeting to introduce new Members of the Committee; consider and adopt the Rules of the Committee for the 117th Congress; approve the Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members as well as approve the assignment of Members to Subcommittees; and share the Committee Oversight Plan for the 117th Congress.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via Cisco Webex Meetings.

February 9, 2021—Full Committee Markup of Committee Print to comply with the reconciliation directive included in section 2001(b) of S. Con. Res. 5, the concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2021 and setting forth the appropriate budgeting levels for fiscal years 2022 through 2030.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA)

Disposition: The Committee Print was ordered to be favorably transmitted to the House Committee on the Budget, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: Transmitted on February 16, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via Cisco Webex Meetings.

March 11, 2021—Full Committee Meeting to approve new Subcommittee assignments.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 11, 2021—Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Hearing titled "Clearing the Air: Science-Based Strategies to Protect Workers from COVID-19 Infections."

Purpose: To evaluate the best methods to protect workers from airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19; to evaluate the need to strengthen Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidance to protect workers; and to establish a national strategy to measure the health impact on workers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Witnesses: Dr. Linsey Marr, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA; Ms. Pascaline Muhindura, Registered Nurse, COVID Progressive Care Unit, Research Medical Center, Kansas City, MO; Mr. Manesh Rath, Partner, Keller and Heckman LLP, Washington, DC; and Dr. David Michaels, former Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Professor of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 17, 2021—Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Hearing titled “Rising to the Challenge: The Future of Higher Education Post COVID–19.”

Purpose: To examine the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on institutions of higher education and students and to highlight the need for additional Administration and congressional action.

Witnesses: Mr. Keith Thornton, Jr., Student, Florida International University, Miami, FL; Mr. Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor, California Community Colleges, Corona Del Mar, CA; Dr. Lindsey Burke, Director, Center for Education Policy, and Mark A. Kolokotronis, Fellow in Education, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC; and Mr. Daniel Zibel, Vice President and Chief Counsel, National Student Legal Defense Network, Takoma Park, MD.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 18, 2021—Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services and Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Joint Hearing titled “Fighting for Fairness: Examining Legislation to Confront Workplace Discrimination.”

Purpose: To consider three pieces of legislation to protect the civil rights of workers in the workplace: H.R. 1065, the *Pregnant Workers Fairness Act*; H.R. 7, the *Paycheck Fairness Act*; and H.R. 2062, the *Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act*.

Witnesses: Ms. Laurie McCann, Senior Attorney, AARP Foundation, Washington, DC; Ms. Dina Bakst, Co-Founder and Co-President, A Better Balance, New York, NY; Ms. Camille A. Olson, Partner, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Chicago, IL; and Ms. Fatima Goss Graves, President and CEO, National Women’s Law Center, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 22, 2021—Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Hearing titled “Ending the Cycle: Examining Ways to Prevent Domestic Violence and Promote Healthy Communities.”

Purpose: To discuss ways to update and strengthen the *Family Violence Prevention and Services Act* to prevent and address intimate partner violence.

Witnesses: Mrs. Vanessa Timmons, Executive Director, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Portland, OR; Ms. Wendy I. Schlater, Vice Chair, La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians, Pauma Valley, CA; Ms. Ami Novoryta, Chief Program Officer, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Chicago, IL; and Dr. Elizabeth Miller, Director, Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 24, 2021—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 7, the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT)

Disposition: H.R. 7 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 25 Yeas and 22 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–13 was filed on April 5, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 24, 2021—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 1065, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY)

Disposition: H.R. 1065 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 30 Yeas and 17 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–27 (Part I) was filed on May 4, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 24, 2021—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 1195, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Joe Courtney (CT)

Disposition: H.R. 1195 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 20 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–14 (Part I) was filed on April 5, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 25, 2021—Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Hearing titled “Lessons Learned: Charting the Path to Educational Equity Post-COVID–19.”

Purpose: To examine how the COVID–19 pandemic has impacted communities and discuss the most effective methods of ensuring the nation’s public schools reopen and recover equitably.

Witnesses: Mr. Mark H. Morial, President and CEO, National Urban League, New York, NY; Mrs. Jennifer Dale, Parent, Lake Oswego, OR; Ms. Selene A. Almazan, Esq., Legal Director, Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc., Towson, MD; and Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Miami, FL.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

April 15, 2021—Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Hearing titled “Meeting the Moment: Improving Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Care.”

Purpose: To address barriers to access to behavioral health care, particularly limited coverage of mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and the importance of improving enforcement of mental health parity laws.

Witnesses: Dr. Brian Smedley, Chief of Psychology in the Public Interest, American Psychological Association, Washington, DC; Dr. Christine Yu Moutier, Chief Medical Officer, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, New York, NY; Mr. James Gelfand, Senior Vice President, Health Policy, The ERISA Industry Committee, Washington, DC; and Dr. Meiram Bendat, Founder, Psych-Appeal, Santa Barbara, CA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

April 20, 2021—Full Committee Meeting to approve new Subcommittee assignments.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

April 20, 2021—Full Committee Hearing titled “For-Profit College Conversions: Examining Ways to Improve Accountability and Prevent Fraud.”

Purpose: To provide Committee members the opportunity to better understand the findings in a U.S. Government Accountability Office report on for-profit college conversions and the harm “covert for-profits” cause students and taxpayers.

Witnesses: Ms. Melissa Emrey-Arras, Director of Higher Education, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Boston, MA; Ms. Yan Cao, Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation, New York, NY; Mr. Brian Galle, Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC; and Dr. Andrew Gillen, Senior Policy Analyst, Texas Public Policy Foundation, Austin, TX.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

April 22, 2021—Full Committee Hearing titled “Members Day Hearing: Committee on Education and Labor.”

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for non-Committee Members to inform the Committee of their interests and priorities as they relate to the Committee’s jurisdiction pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Witnesses: Oral testimony provided by the Honorable Mary Gay Scanlon, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Swarthmore, PA; and the Honorable James Langevin, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Warwick, RI. Written testimony provided by the Honorable J. French Hill, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Little Rock, AR; the Honorable Brenda Lawrence, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Southfield, MI; the Honorable Angie Craig, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Eagan, MN; the Honorable Matt Cartwright, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Moosic, PA; and the Honorable Steve Cohen, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Memphis, TN.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

April 28, 2021—Full Committee Hearing titled “Building Back Better: Investing in Improving Schools, Creating Jobs, and Strengthening Families and our Economy.”

Purpose: To examine President Biden’s American Jobs Plan (AJP) and American Families Plan (AFP), proposals which encompass a multi-year plan to transform the economy through infrastructure investment, job training, and addressing climate change. The hearing received testimony on proposals to expand child care, rebuild unsafe school buildings in areas of greatest need, help workers develop in-demand skills to prepare for rewarding careers, and update community college infrastructure.

Witnesses: Mr. Rasheed Malik, Senior Policy Analyst, Center for American Progress, Washington, DC; Dr. Neal McCluskey, Director, Cato Institute’s Center for Educational Freedom, Washington, DC; Mr. Mark Mitsui, President, Portland Community College; Portland, OR; Mr. Bob Lanter, Executive Director, California Workforce Association, Sacramento, CA; Mr. Brian Riedl, Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute, New York, NY; and Ms. Mary Filardo, Executive Director, 21st Century School Fund, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 3, 2021—Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Hearing titled “From Excluded to Essential: Tracing the Racist Exclusion of Farmworkers, Domestic Workers, and Tipped Workers from the Fair Labor Standards Act.”

Purpose: To examine the negative economic and social impacts of excluding farmworkers, domestic workers, and tipped workers from the full protections of the *Fair Labor Standards Act*, their exclusion having been rooted in the racist design of the legislation, and to consider congressional action to remedy the exclusion of these groups of workers.

Witnesses: Ms. Rebecca Dixon, Executive Director, National Employment Law Project, Washington, DC; Mr. Paul DeCamp, Member, Epstein Becker & Green, P.C., Washington, DC; Ms. Teresa Romero, President, United Farm Workers, Lancaster, CA; and Ms. Haeyoung Yoon, Senior Policy Director, National Domestic Workers Alliance, New York, NY.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 5, 2021—Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Hearing titled “Lower Drug Costs Now: Expanding Access to Affordable Health Care.”

Purpose: To explore the rising cost of prescription drugs in the United States and the impact of high drug prices on workers and businesses.

Witnesses: Dr. Mariana P. Socal, Assistant Scientist, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD; Mr. David Mitchell, Founder, Patients for Affordable Drugs Now, Bethesda, MD; Dr. Douglas Holtz-Eakin, President, American Action Forum, Washington, DC; and Mr. Frederick Isasi, Executive Director, Families USA, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 6, 2021—Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Hearing titled “Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Students with Disabilities.”

Purpose: To examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students with disabilities and needed steps to support their educational recovery, life skills development, and social-emotional well-being.

Witnesses: Mr. Ronald M. Hager, Managing Attorney, National Disability Rights Network, Washington, DC; Ms. Kanika A. Littleton, Project Director, Michigan Alliance for Families, Lansing, MI; Mr. Reade Bush, Parent, Arlington, VA; and Dr. Danielle M. Kovach, Special Education Teacher, Tulsa Trail Elementary School, Hopatcong Board of Education, Hopatcong, NJ.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 12, 2021—Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service as conveyed

in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 as they relate to federal child nutrition programs.

Witness: Ms. Stacy Dean, Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 13, 2021—Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Hearing titled “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Reauthorization: Creating Opportunities for Youth Employment.”

Purpose: To examine how the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) currently serves the needs of in-school and out-of-school youth and what changes are needed to improve WIOA’s youth services as part of reauthorization.

Witnesses: Ms. Chekemma Townsend, President and CEO, Philadelphia Youth Network, Philadelphia, PA; Mr. Thomas Showalter, Senior Advisor, National Youth Employment Coalition, Washington, DC; Ms. Deb Lindner, Human Resources Manager, Precor, Whitsett, NC; and Mr. Byron Garret, President and CEO, National Job Corps Association, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 19, 2021—Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Hearing titled “Picking up the Pieces: Strengthening Connections with Students Experiencing Homelessness and Children in Foster Care.”

Purpose: To examine the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on the educational experiences of children and students experiencing homelessness and children and students in foster care and the ways in which the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* will support these populations.

Witnesses: Ms. Jennifer Erb-Downward, MPH, Senior Research Associate, Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI; Ms. Michelle Linder-Coates, Executive Director, School District of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA; Ms. Gretchen Davis, foster parent, Arlington, VA; and Dr. James F. Lane, Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia Department of Education, Richmond, VA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 26, 2021—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 3110, the Providing Urgent Maternal Protections (PUMP) for Nursing Mothers Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Carolyn Maloney (NY)

Disposition: H.R. 3110 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 28 Yeas and 19 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–102 was filed on July 22, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 26, 2021—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 2062, the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act of 2021 (POWADA).

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: H.R. 2062 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 29 Yeas and 18 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–63 was filed on June 17, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 27, 2021—Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Hearing titled “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Reauthorization: Creating Employment Pathways for Dislocated Workers.”

Purpose: To examine how the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) currently serves the needs of dislocated workers and to consider improvements to improve outcomes for dislocated workers through the reauthorization of WIOA.

Witnesses: Mr. Joseph Barela, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Denver, CO; Mr. PJ McGrew, Executive Director, Indiana Governor’s Workforce Cabinet, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Matt Sigelman, Chief Executive Officer, Burning Glass Technologies, Boston, MA; and Ms. Portia Wu, Managing Director, U.S. Public Policy, U.S. Government Affairs, Microsoft Corporation, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 9, 2021—Full Committee Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

Witness: The Honorable Martin Walsh, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 10, 2021—Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Hearing titled “Ending Child Hunger: Priorities for Child Nutrition Reauthorization.”

Purpose: To examine legislative solutions to end child hunger and discuss how Congress can bolster proven strategies to feed hungry children.

Witnesses: Mr. Michael Wilson, Director, Maryland Hunger Solutions, Baltimore, MD; Ms. Crystal Cooper, Executive Director, Nutrition Support Services, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL; Mr. Brandon Lipps, Principal, Caprock Strategies, Alexandria, VA; and Mr. Tom Colicchio, Chef and Owner, Crafted Hospitality, New York, NY.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 15, 2021—Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Hearing titled “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Reauthorization: Examining Successful Models of Employment for Justice-Involved Individuals.”

Purpose: To examine how the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) currently serves the needs of justice-involved individuals and what changes are needed to improve the scope and effectiveness of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Reentry Opportunities Program through the reauthorization of WIOA.

Witnesses: Ms. Traci Scott, Vice President of Workforce Development Division, National Urban League, New York, NY; Mr. Gregg

Keesling, President, DBA Recycle Force Workforce, Inc., Indianapolis, IN; Dr. Pamela Lattimore, Senior Director for Research Development, Division for Applied Justice Research, RTI International, Durham, NC; and Ms. Wendi Safstrom, Executive Director, SHRM Foundation, Alexandria, VA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 16, 2021—Full Committee Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

Witness: The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 23, 2021—Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Hearing titled “Examining Pathways to Build a Stronger, More Inclusive Retirement System.”

Purpose: To examine the challenges facing retirement savers and explore options for congressional action to increase access to sustainable retirement income for categories of workers historically excluded from participation in retirement savings programs.

Witnesses: Dr. Teresa Ghilarducci, Irene and Bernard L. Schwartz Professor of Economics and Policy Analysis, The New School for Social Research, New York, NY; Dr. Nari Rhee, Director, Retirement Security Program, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA; Dr. Andrew Biggs, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC; and Mr. David Certner, Legislative Counsel and Legislative Policy Director, AARP, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 24, 2021—Full Committee Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Education as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

Witness: The Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 15, 2021—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 2119, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021.

Sponsor: Rep. Lucy McBath (GA)

Disposition: H.R. 2119 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 26 Yeas and 20 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–126 was filed on September 23, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 15, 2021—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 3992, the Protect Older Job Applicants (POJA) Act of 2021.

Sponsor: Rep. Sylvia Garcia (TX)

Disposition: H.R. 3992 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 26 Yeas and 19 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–127 was filed on September 23, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 15, 2021—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 729, the Strength in Diversity Act of 2021.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: H.R. 729 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 19 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–176 was filed on November 23, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 15, 2021—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 730, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2021.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: H.R. 730 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 19 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–177 (Part I) was filed on November 23, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 20, 2021—Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions and Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Joint Hearing titled “Care for Our Communities: Investing in the Direct Care Workforce.”

Purpose: To examine the unmet need for direct care workers as well as the difficulty in recruiting, retaining, supporting, and training this critical and in-demand workforce; to discuss issues related to wages, Medicaid reimbursement rates, and working conditions; and to consider the role of the *Direct CARE Opportunity Act* (H.R. 2999) in addressing the problems identified.

Witnesses: Mr. Robert Espinoza, Vice President of Policy, PHI, Bronx, NY; Ms. Zulma Torres, Home Health Aide, Cooperative Home Care Associates, Waterbury, CT; Mr. Paul Burani, Head of Business Development, North America Udacity, Inc., Mountain View, CA; and the Honorable Jessica Fay, State Representative, Maine House of Representatives, Raymond, ME.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 21, 2021—Subcommittee on Workforce Protections and Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Joint Hearing titled “Phasing Out Subminimum Wages: Supporting the Transition to Competitive Integrated Employment for Workers with Disabilities.”

Purpose: To consider H.R. 2723, the *Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act*, a bill that would phase out the subminimum wage for workers with disabilities and authorize funding to states and employers to transition workers with disabilities to competitive integrated employment.

Witnesses: Ms. Nantanee Koppstein, Member, New Jersey Statewide Independent Living Council, Princeton Junction, NJ; Mr. John Anton, Legislative Specialist, Massachusetts Down Syndrome

Congress, Haverhill, MA; Dr. Matthew Putts, CEO, Employment Horizons, Inc., Cedar Knolls, NJ; and Mr. Anil Lewis, Executive Director for Blindness Initiatives, National Federation of the Blind, Baltimore, MD.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 28, 2021—Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Hearing titled “Food for Thought: Examining Federal Nutrition Programs for Young Children and Infants.”

Purpose: To examine federal child nutrition and related programs that support young children and opportunities to strengthen these laws.

Witnesses: Ms. Teresa L. Turner, Nutritionist, Child and Youth Services, United States Army, Glen Burnie, MD; Ms. Paula N. Garrett, Division Director, Division of Community Nutrition, Virginia Department of Health, Richmond, VA; Mr. Trevor Farrell, Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer, Americas, Schreiber Foods, Inc., Green Bay, WI; and Mrs. Jessica Burris, North Carolina WIC Participant and Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, WIC Department, Montgomery County Department of Health, Troy, NC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 29, 2021—Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Hearing titled “Keeping the Pell Grant Promise: Increasing Enrollment, Supporting Success.”

Purpose: To examine trends related to low enrollment of Pell Grant eligible students at four-year public institutions, best institutional and research-based practices to increase enrollment and success, and how proposed federal policies will support and advance these efforts.

Witnesses: Dr. Justin Ortagus, Associate Professor, Higher Education Administration and Policy, and Director, Institute of Higher Education, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL; Dr. Robert Jones, Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL; Dr. Michael Poliakoff, President, American Council of Trustees and Alumni, Washington, DC; and Ms. Darleny Suriel, Student, City College of New York, Bronx, NY.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 9, 2021—Full Committee Markup of Committee Print to comply with reconciliation directive included in section 2002(b) of S. Con. Res. 14, a concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2022 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2023 through 2031.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: The Committee Print was ordered to be favorably transmitted to the House Committee on the Budget, as amended, by a vote of 28 Yeas and 22 Nays.

Committee Report: Transmitted on September 14, 2021.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 28, 2021—Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services and Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Joint Hearing titled “How to Save a Life: Successful Models for Protecting Communities from COVID-19.”

Purpose: To address barriers to COVID-19 vaccine and testing access and highlight resources provided by the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* to increase vaccination rates and make testing more available in underserved communities.

Witnesses: Dr. Leana Wen, Research Professor, The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, and Distinguished Fellow, Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity, Washington, DC; Dr. Viviana Martinez-Bianchi, Director of Health Equity and Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC; Mr. Avik Roy, President, The Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, Washington, DC; and Dr. Chris Pernell, Chief Strategic Integration and Health Equity Officer, University Hospital, Newark, NJ.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 29, 2021—Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Hearing titled “Back to School: Highlighting Best Practices for Safely Reopening School.”

Purpose: To examine how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the return to school for the 2021–2022 school year.

Witnesses: Dr. Jesus Jara, Superintendent of Schools, Clark County School District, Las Vegas, NV; Ms. Denise Forte, Interim Chief Executive Officer, The Education Trust, Washington, DC; Mr. David Zweig, Freelance Journalist, New York, NY; and Dr. Ashish Jha, Dean and Professor of Health Services, Policy and Practice, Brown University School of Public Health, Providence, RI.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 30, 2021—Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Hearing titled “Protecting Students and Taxpayers: Improving the Closed School Discharge Process.”

Purpose: To hear testimony from the U.S. Government Accountability Office about its findings related to the closed school discharge process and to provide Committee members the opportunity to better understand potential improvements to the closed school discharge process to protect students harmed by school closures.

Witnesses: Ms. Melissa Emrey-Arras, Director of Higher Education, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Boston, MA; Ms. Karyn Rhodes, Student Borrower, Torrance, CA; Mr. Preston Cooper, Research Fellow, Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, Washington, DC; and Ms. Robyn Smith, Senior Attorney, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

October 6, 2021—Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Hearing titled “Homecoming: The Historical Roots and Continued Contributions of HBCUs.”

Purpose: To explore the important and unique role that Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) play in the higher education landscape, the historical background that sets these in-

stitutions apart, challenges created by systemic underfunding of the sector, and the ongoing need for federal support.

Witnesses: Dr. Lezli Baskerville, President and CEO, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, Washington, DC; Dr. Glenda Glover, President, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN; Mrs. Angela Sailor, Vice President, The Edwin J. Feulner Institute, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC; and Dr. Andre Perry, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institute, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

October 26, 2021—Subcommittee on Workforce Protections and Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Joint Hearing titled “Protecting Lives and Livelihoods: Vaccine Requirements and Employee Accommodations.”

Purpose: To examine the civil rights and accommodations issues regarding employer vaccination policies, and to assess the policy issues related to the impending Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s Emergency Temporary Standard that calls for employers with 100 or more employees to require employees to receive vaccination against COVID–19 or undergo routine testing.

Witnesses: Dr. Sidney Shapiro, Frank U. Fletcher Chair in Administrative Law and Professor of Law, Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC; Ms. Richelle T. Luther, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, Columbia Sportswear Company, Portland, OR; Mr. Scott Hecker, Senior Counsel, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Washington, DC; and Dr. Doron Dorfman, Associate Professor of Law, Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, NY.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

October 27, 2021—Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Office of Federal Student Aid.”

Purpose: To explore the plans of the Office of Federal Student Aid within the U.S. Department of Education in overseeing institutions of higher education and enforcing compliance with the requirements for participation in programs authorized under title IV of the *Higher Education Act of 1965*.

Witness: The Honorable Richard Cordray, Chief Operating Officer, Office of Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

November 3, 2021—Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Hearing titled “A Call to Action: Modernizing the Community Services Block Grant.”

Purpose: To examine reauthorization of the Community Services Block Grant.

Witnesses: Mr. David Bradley, Chief Executive Officer, National Community Action Foundation, Fredericksburg, VA; Ms. Sharon Scott-Chandler, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Action for Boston Community Development, Inc., Natick, MA; Mr. Clarence Carter, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Human Services, Nashville, TN; and Ms. Katherine King Galian,

Director of Family and Community Resources, Community Action, Hillsboro, OR.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

November 4, 2021—Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Hearing titled “Closing the Courthouse Doors: The Injustice of Forced Arbitration Agreements.”

Purpose: To examine the impacts of forced arbitration and collective action waivers on workers’ ability to enforce their rights under federal employment laws and to consider H.R. 4841, the *Restoring Justice for Workers Act*, a bill to make forced arbitration provisions and collective action waivers unenforceable in employment cases and to make the use of those provisions unlawful under the *National Labor Relation Act*.

Witnesses: Dr. Alexander Colvin, Kenneth F. Kahn Dean and Martin F. Scheinman Professor of Conflict Resolution, Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Ithaca, NY; Ms. Glenda Perez, former Implementation Set-Up Representative, Cigna, Ruskin, FL; Mr. Roger King, Senior Labor and Employment Counsel, HR Policy Association, Arlington, VA; and Ms. Kalpana Kotagal, Partner, Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll, PLLC, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

November 10, 2021—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 5891, the Retirement Improvement and Savings Enhancement (RISE) Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: H.R. 5891 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by voice vote.

Committee Report: House Report 117–250 (Part I) was filed on February 25, 2022.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

November 17, 2021—Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education and Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Joint Hearing titled “Examining the Implementation of COVID–19 Education Funds.”

Purpose: To hear from senior U.S. Department of Education officials about the management and oversight of the Education Stabilization Fund (ESF).

Witnesses: Ms. Cindy Marten, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC; and Mr. James Kvaal, Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

December 1, 2021—Full Committee Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Corporation for National and Community Service.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the Corporation for National and Community Service, including financial management concerns identified by the agency’s auditors.

Witnesses: The Honorable Deborah Jeffrey, Inspector General, Corporation for National and Community Service, Washington, DC; and Mr. Malcolm Coles, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

December 2, 2021—Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Hearing titled “Strengthening the Safety Net for Injured Workers.”

Purpose: To assess the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs; to assess the need for management reforms to the black lung benefits self-insurance program; and to consider four pieces of legislation to strengthen federal workers’ compensation programs—H.R. 2499, the *Federal Firefighters Fairness Act*; H.R. 3314, the *Longshore and Harbor Workers’ COVID-19 Compensation Act of 2021*; H.R. 6102, the *Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2021*; and H.R. 6087, the *Improving Access to Workers’ Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act*.

Witnesses: Panel I—The Honorable Salud Carbajal, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives, Santa Barbara, CA. Panel II—Mr. Christopher Godfrey, Director, Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC; and Mr. Thomas Costa, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

February 16, 2022—Full Committee Meeting to approve new Subcommittee assignments.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

February 16, 2022—Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Hearing titled “Serving All Students: Promoting a Healthier, More Supportive School Environment.”

Purpose: To examine outdated discipline practices and to highlight evidence-based practices that schools can implement to create healthy school environments that support students’ social, emotional, and academic development.

Witnesses: Mr. Guy Stephens, Founder and Executive Director, Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint, Lusby, MD; Ms. Morgan Craven, National Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Community Engagement, Intercultural Development Research Association, San Antonio, TX; Mr. Max Eden, Research Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC; and Ms. Kristen Harper, Vice President for Public Policy and Engagement, Child Trends, Laurel, MD.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

February 17, 2022—Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Hearing titled “Exploring Pathways to Affordable, Universal Health Coverage.”

Purpose: To examine the need for and proposals to achieve universal health coverage in the United States.

Witnesses: The Honorable Robert B. Reich, Chancellor’s Professor of Public Policy, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA; Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, MD, Executive Director, American Public Health Association, Washington, DC; Dr. Brian Blase, President, Paragon Health Institute, Ponte Vedra, FL; and Ms. Katie Keith, Visiting Professor and Director of the Health Policy

and the Law Initiative, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 1, 2022—Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Hearing titled “Improving Retirement Security and Access to Mental Health Benefits.”

Purpose: To examine ways to strengthen access to retirement security and mental health benefits.

Witnesses: Ms. Amy Matsui, Director of Income Security and Senior Counsel, National Women’s Law Center, Washington, DC; Ms. Karen Handorf, Senior Counsel, Berger Montague, Alexandria, VA; Mr. Andrew Biggs, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC; and Mr. Aron Szapiro, Head of Retirement Studies and Public Policy, Morningstar, Inc. and Morningstar Investment Management LLC, Chicago, IL.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 2, 2022—Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Hearing titled “Investing in Economic Mobility: The Important Role of Hispanic Serving Institutions and Other Minority Serving Institutions.”

Purpose: To explore the important role that Minority Serving Institutions play in higher education, their ongoing need for federal support, and their implementation of federally-funded grant activities.

Witnesses: Dr. José Luis Cruz Rivera, President, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ; Dr. Patricia Ramsey, President, Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn, NY; Dr. Janine Davidson, President, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Denver, CO; and Dr. Robert Teranishi, Professor of Education and Morgan and Helen Chu Endowed Chair in Asian American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, CA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 16, 2022—Full Committee Meeting to approve new Subcommittee assignments.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

March 16, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 6102, the Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2021.

Sponsor: Rep. Matt Cartwright (PA)

Disposition: H.R. 6102 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 28 Yeas and 22 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–589 (Part I) was filed on December 2, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

March 16, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 5129, the Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (OR)

Disposition: H.R. 5129 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 35 Yeas and 14 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–311 was filed on May 6, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

March 16, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 2499, the Federal Fire Fighters Fairness Act of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Salud Carbajal (CA)

Disposition: H.R. 2499 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 31 Yeas and 18 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–306 was filed on May 6, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

March 16, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 5428, the School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL)

Disposition: H.R. 5428 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–307 was filed on May 6, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

March 16, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 3114, the Longshore and Harbor Workers' COVID–19 Compensation Act of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Frank Mrvan (IN)

Disposition: H.R. 6102 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–526 was filed on September 29, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

March 16, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 6087, the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Joe Courtney (CT)

Disposition: H.R. 6087 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by voice vote.

Committee Report: No Committee Report filed.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

April 5, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 7309, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: H.R. 7309 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 29 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–321 was filed on May 12, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

April 5, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 7310, the Protecting America’s Retirement Security Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Lucy McBath (GA)

Disposition: H.R. 7310 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 29 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–557 (Part I) was filed on November 14, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

April 6, 2022—Full Committee Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2023.

Witness: The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

April 27, 2022—Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2023.

Witnesses: The Honorable Charlotte Burrows, Chair, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington, DC; and Ms. Jenny Yang, Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 11, 2022—Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Hearing titled “Standing Up for Workers: Preventing Wage Theft and Recovering Stolen Wages.”

Purpose: To examine the negative impacts of wage theft on workers and honest businesses as well as consider the *Wage Theft Prevention and Wage Recovery Act* (H.R. 7701), which would deter wage theft and help workers seek justice to recover lost wages.

Witnesses: Ms. Karen Cacace, Labor Bureau Chief, The New York State Office of the Attorney General, New York, NY; Mr. Daniel Swenson-Klatt, Owner and Operator, Butter Bakery Café, Minneapolis, MN; Ms. Tammy McCutcheon, Senior Affiliate, Resolution Economics, Washington, DC; and Mr. Francisco Esparza, Representative, United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Upper Marlboro, MD.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 17, 2022—Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Hearing titled “Examining Ways to Improve the Juvenile Justice System and Support America’s Young People.”

Purpose: To examine the current state of the juvenile justice and child welfare residential care systems by assessing the risk factors that lead to out-of-home placement, exploring treatment and service options for youth in these systems, and evaluating the role of federal funding.

Witnesses: Ms. Lisette Burton, Chief Policy and Practice Advisor, Association of Children’s Residential and Community Services (ACRC), Milwaukee, WI; Mr. A. Hasan Davis, Founder/Director, Hasan Davis Solutions L.L.C., Lexington, KY; Mr. Alan Loux, President and CEO, Rawhide Youth Services, New London, WI; and Dr. Karen Kolivoski, Associate Professor, Howard University School of Social Work, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 18, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 604, the Rebuild America’s Schools Act (RASA) of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: H.R. 604 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 19 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–607 (Part I) was filed on December 7, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 18, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 7701, the Wage Theft Prevention and Wage Recovery Act of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT)

Disposition: H.R. 7701 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 19 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–540 was filed on October 7, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 18, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 5407, the Enhancing Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Susan Wild (PA)

Disposition: H.R. 5407 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by voice vote.

Committee Report: House Report 117–383 was filed on June 23, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 18, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 6493, the Campus Prevention and Recovery Services for Students Act of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (NM)

Disposition: H.R. 6493 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by voice vote.

Committee Report: House Report 117–384 was filed on June 23, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 18, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 7780, the Mental Health Matters Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (CA)

Disposition: H.R. 7780 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 26 Yeas 18 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–484 was filed on September 22, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

May 24, 2022—Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Bureau of Indian Education” (held jointly with the Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous People of the United States) (hearing was adjourned before witness testimony or Member questions due to technical difficulties; subcommittees agreed to conduct a second hearing and include an additional witness).

Purpose: To examine the role of the Bureau of Indian Education in serving American Indian and Alaskan Native students.

Witness: Mr. Tony Dearman, Director, Bureau of Indian Education, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 25, 2022—Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Witnesses: The Honorable Douglas Parker, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC; and Mr. Thomas Costa, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

May 26, 2022—Full Committee Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Education as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2023.

Witness: The Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

June 14, 2022—Full Committee Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2023.

Witness: The Honorable Martin Walsh, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

June 23, 2022—Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service as conveyed in President Biden’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2023.

Witness: Ms. Cindy Long, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

June 28, 2022—Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Bureau of Indian Education” (held jointly with the Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous People of the United States) (this hearing was a follow-up to the hearing on May 24, 2022, above).

Purpose: To examine the role of the Bureau of Indian Education in serving American Indian and Alaskan Native students.

Witnesses: Ms. Beth Sirois, Assistant Director, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; and Mr. Tony Dearman, Director, Bureau of Indian Education, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

July 19, 2022—Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Hearing titled “The History and Continued Contributions of Tribal Colleges and Universities.”

Purpose: The purpose of this hearing is to explore the important and unique role that Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) play in the higher education landscape, including the historical background that sets these institutions apart from a policy standpoint, their accomplishments, the important role these institutions play in their communities, and their ongoing need for federal support.

Witnesses: Ms. Carrie Billy, President and CEO, American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Alexandria, VA; Dr. Cynthia Lindquist, President, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Fort Totten, ND; Dr. Beth Akers, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC; and Dr. Sandra Boham, President, Saliish Kootenai College, Pablo, MT. (Dr. Lindquist was unable to provide oral testimony, but her written statement was made part of the hearing record via unanimous consent.)

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

July 20, 2022—Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Hearing titled “Second Class Workers: Assessing H2 Visa Programs’ Impact on Workers.”

Purpose: To examine the H–2A and H–2B visa programs and the U.S. Department of Labor’s role in enforcing the labor standards in these programs.

Witnesses: Mr. Daniel Costa, Director of Immigration Law and Policy Research, Economic Policy Institute, Washington, DC; Ms. Teresa Romero, President, United Farm Workers, Keene, CA; Mr. Leon Sequera, Attorney, Arlington, VA; and Mr. Ty Pinkins, Consumer Protection Attorney, Mississippi Center for Justice, Vicksburg, MS.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

July 27, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 2193, the Asunción Valdivia Heat Illness and Fatality Prevention Act of 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Judy Chu (CA)

Disposition: H.R. 2193 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 19 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–547 was filed on November 7, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

July 27, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H.R. 8450, the Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Disposition: H.R. 8450 was ordered to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a vote of 27 Yeas and 20 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–548 was filed on November 7, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

July 28, 2022—Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Hearing titled “Essential but Undervalued: Examining Workplace Protections for Domestic Workers.”

Purpose: To examine the role domestic workers play in our nation’s households and economy and their exclusion from labor law protections, and to consider the *Domestic Workers Bill of Rights Act* (H.R. 4826), which would provide protections for domestic workers.

Witnesses: Ms. Ai-Jen Poo, President, National Domestic Workers Alliance, New York, NY; Dr. C. Nicole Mason, President and CEO, Institute for Women’s Policy Research, Washington, DC; Mr. Paul DeCamp, Member, Epstein Becker Green, Washington, DC; and Ms. Dana Barnett, Washington State Organizer, Hand in Hand: the Domestic Employers Network, Seattle, WA.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

September 7, 2022—Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Hearing titled “Children at Risk: Examining Workplace Protections for Child Farmworkers.”

Purpose: To examine workplace protections for child farmworkers.

Witnesses: Ms. Margaret Wurth, Senior Children’s Rights Researcher, Human Rights Watch, Tarrytown, NY; Dr. Barbara Lee, Director/Senior Research Scientist, National Children’s Center for Rural and Agriculture Health and Safety, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, Marshfield, WI; Ms. Kristi Boswell, Counsel, Alston & Bird LLP, Washington, DC; and Ms. Norma Flores López, Committee Chair, Child Labor Coalition, San Juan, TX.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 8, 2022—Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Hearing titled “An Ounce of Prevention: Investments in Juvenile Justice Programs.”

Purpose: To examine the links between sustained investments in delinquency prevention and intervention programs and improved outcomes for young people and their communities.

Witnesses: Dr. Stephanie Hawkins, Founding Director, Transformative Research Unit for Equity (TRUE), RTI International, Research Triangle Park, NC; Ms. Naomi Smoot Evans, Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice, Washington, DC; Fr. Steven Boes, National Executive Director, Boys Town, Boys Town, NE; and Mr. David Muhammad, Executive Director, National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, Oakland, CA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 14, 2022—Full Committee Hearing titled “In Solidarity: Removing Barriers to Organizing.”

Purpose: To examine the increase in worker organizing activity across the country, the factors driving this activity, the need to increase funding for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to handle the spike in this activity, and the need to enact the *Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act* (H.R. 842).

Witnesses: Dr. Kate Bronfenbrenner, Director of Labor Education Research and Senior Lecturer, Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Ithaca, NY; Mr. Mark Pearce, Visiting Professor and Executive Director of the Workers’ Rights Institute, Georgetown University, Washington, DC; Mr. Roger King, Senior Labor and Employment Policy Counsel, HR Policy Association, Arlington, VA; and Ms. Michelle Eisen, Barista, Starbucks, Buffalo, NY.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

September 15, 2022—Full Committee Meeting to approve new Subcommittee assignments.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

September 15, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H. Res. 1295, Of inquiry directing the Secretary of Education to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the Department of Education’s cost estimates for the Secretary’s waivers related to public service loan forgiveness and income-driven repayment.

Sponsor: Rep. Virginia Foxx (NC)

Disposition: H. Res. 1295 was ordered to be reported adversely to the House, as amended, by a vote of 28 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–549 was filed on November 10, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

September 15, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H. Res. 1296, Of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Education to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the legal authority to forgive Federal student loan debt.

Sponsor: Rep. Virginia Foxx (NC)

Disposition: H. Res. 1296 was ordered to be reported adversely to the House, as amended, by a vote of 28 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–550 was filed on November 10, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

September 15, 2022—Full Committee Markup of H. Res. 1273, Of inquiry directing the President to provide certain documents in the President’s possession to the House of Representatives relating to communication between the executive branch and the American Federation of Teachers regarding reopening schools and supporting safe, in-person learning.

Sponsor: Rep. John Joyce (PA)

Disposition: H. Res. 1273 was ordered to be reported adversely to the House, as amended, by a vote of 28 Yeas and 21 Nays.

Committee Report: House Report 117–539 was filed on September 30, 2022.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

September 20, 2022—Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Hearing titled “Back to School: Meeting Students” Academic, Social, and Emotional Needs.”

Purpose: To examine how states and school districts are approaching pandemic recovery this school year, including efforts to leverage evidence-based interventions to close achievement gaps exacerbated by the pandemic, as well as meet students’ social and emotional needs.

Witnesses: Ms. Phyllis Jordan, Associate Director, FutureEd, Washington, DC; Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, President and CEO, Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, Fairfax Station, VA; Dr. Penny Shinny, Tennessee Commissioner of Education, Tennessee Department of Education, Nashville, TN; and Dr. Mat-

thew Blomstedt, Commissioner of Education, Nebraska Department of Education, Lincoln, NE.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

September 21, 2022—Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Hearing titled “Examining the Administration of the Unemployment Insurance System.”

Purpose: To hear testimony from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) about its findings related to the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) implementation of the temporary pandemic unemployment insurance (UI) programs, GAO’s inclusion of the regular UI system on its High Risk List, and steps DOL and Congress can take to make improvements to the administration of the UI system.

Witnesses: Mr. Thomas Costa, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Team, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; Ms. Rebecca Dixon, Executive Director, National Employment Law Project, Washington, DC; Mr. Matt Weidinger, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC; and Ms. Veronica Robinson, individual affected by one of the temporary pandemic UI programs, Philadelphia, PA.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

November 17, 2022—Full Committee Meeting to approve new Subcommittee assignments.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

November 17, 2022—Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Hearing entitled “Unsafe and Untenable: Examining Workplace Protections for Warehouse Workers.”

Purpose: To examine the workplace safety crisis in warehouses and employers’ responsibility to protect the health and safety of workers.

Witnesses: Mr. Sheheryar Kaoosji, Executive Director, Warehouse Workers Resource Center, Ontario, CA; Mr. Eric Frumin, Director of Health and Safety, Strategic Organizing Center, New York, NY; Mr. Manesh K. Rath, Partner, Keller & Heckman, Washington, DC; and Ms. Janeth Caicedo, sister of Edilberto Caicedo, a warehouse worker who died on the job, Elizabeth, NJ.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

December 14, 2022—Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Hearing titled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Corporation for National and Community Service.”

Purpose: To examine the policies and priorities of the Corporation for National and Community Service, including financial management concerns identified by the agency’s auditors.

Witnesses: The Honorable Deborah Jeffrey, Inspector General, Corporation for National and Community Service, Washington, DC;

and Mr. Michael Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, Washington, DC.

Platform: Conducted in person in 2175 Rayburn HOB with remote participation via ZoomGov.

OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIVITY (BRIEFING) CONDUCTED ENTIRELY REMOTELY OR WITH REMOTE PARTICIPATION

April 21, 2021—Full Committee Bipartisan Briefing titled “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Reauthorization.”

Purpose: To provide Committee Members with a briefing on the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Experts: Dr. David Bradley, Analyst in Labor Economics, Congressional Research Service, Washington, DC; Ms. Dawn Locke, Acting Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; Mr. Ron Painter, President and CEO, National Association of Workforce Boards, Washington, DC; and Ms. Maria Flynn, President and CEO, Jobs for the Future, Boston, MA.

Platform: Conducted entirely remotely via ZoomGov.

CONFERENCE REPORTS FILED WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED AS CONFEREES

No Committee Members were named as conferees to any conference reports in the 117th Congress.

COMMITTEE REVIEW OF DRAFT CODIFICATION OF LAW PROPOSED BY THE OFFICE OF THE LAW REVISION COUNSEL

The Office of the Law Revision Counsel prepared a draft of a bill to enact certain laws relating to territories and insular possessions as new positive law title 48, “Territories and Insular Possessions”, of the United States Code. Upon request by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel, the Committee reviewed the draft. The Committee had no comments.

ISSUE REPORTS WRITTEN BY THE COMMITTEE

June 10, 2022—Report analyzing the economic benefits of unions for workers and families. This report was released with the Joint Economic Committee.

September 29, 2022—Report highlighting the importance of the *Affordable Care Act’s* requirement for health plans to provide preventive care without cost-sharing. The report details the Committee’s concerns with attempts to erode access to preventive care.

AMICUS BRIEFS SUPPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE

January 24, 2022—Brief submitted to the National Labor Relations Board in support of reinstating a policy under the *Specialty Healthcare* precedent to prevent employers from gerrymandering union representation elections. This brief was led by Chairman Scott and signed by 13 additional Members of the House of Representatives.

April 1, 2022—Brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in *Joseph A. Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*, urging the Supreme Court to uphold First Amendment protections by reaffirm-

ing limitations on the ability of school staff to lead students in, or pressure students into participating in, school prayer or other religious activity. This brief was signed by Chairman Scott and ten other Members of the House of Representatives.

August 1, 2022—Brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College and Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina, et al.*, supporting institutions of higher education considering race and ethnicity as one narrowly tailored factor among many when making admissions decisions. This brief was led by Chairman Scott and signed by 64 additional Members of the House of Representatives.

August 19, 2022—Brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in *303 Creative LLC, et al., v. Aubrey Elenis, et al.*, in support of antidiscrimination laws that fulfill the government’s compelling interest in eliminating discrimination to ensure that everyone can participate freely in all aspects of public life, including accessing goods and services without discriminatory barriers. This brief was signed by Chairman Scott, 122 other Members of the House of Representatives, and 14 Members of the Senate.

September 26, 2022—Brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Health and Hospital Corp. of Marion County v. Talevski*, in support of the ability of individuals to use federal courts to enforce the requirements of certain federal programs, including Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, the Fair Housing Assistance Program, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, Head Start, and the Veterans Rehabilitation program. This brief was signed by Chairman Scott, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, House Majority Whip James Clyburn, House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chair Frank Pallone, Jr., House Committee on Ways and Means Chair Richard Neal, House Committee on Financial Services Chair Maxine Waters, House Committee on the Judiciary Chair Jerrold Nadler, House Committee on Agriculture Chair David Scott, House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Chair Mark Takano, Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chair Patty Murray, Senate Committee on Finance Chair Ron Wyden, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Chair Sherrod Brown, and Senate Committee on Aging Chair Bob Casey, Jr.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY STATISTICS *

Total Number of Bills and Resolutions Referred to the Committee—1358

Total Number of Hearings Held by the Committee—61

Total Number of Hearings Held by the Full Committee—11

Total Number of Hearings Held by the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education (including 3 joint hearings)—9

Total Number of Hearings Held by the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment (including 2 joint hearings)—13

* As of January 1, 2023.

- Total Number of Hearings Held by the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions (including 2 joint hearings)—9
- Total Number of Hearings Held by the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections (including 3 joint hearings)—12
- Total Number of Hearings Held by the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services (including 4 joint hearing)—13
- Total Number of Field Hearings (Held by the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment jointly with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs' Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity)—0
- Total Number of Markup Sessions Held by the Committee—11
- Total Number of Markup Sessions Held by the Full Committee—11
- Total Number of Legislation Ordered Reported (including Two Transmissions to the Committee on the Budget to Comply with Reconciliation Directives) by the Full Committee—30
- Total Number of Committee Reports Filed for Legislation Ordered Reported by the Full Committee—27
- Total Number of Legislation Referred to the Committee that Passed the House (including each time legislation passed)—38
- Total Number of Legislation Referred to the Committee that Passed the House in Another Measure (including each time legislation passed in another measure)—42
- Total Number of Legislation Within Committee Jurisdiction Not Referred to the Committee that Passed the House (including each time legislation passed)—17
- Total Number of Legislation Referred to the Committee Enacted Into Law—1
- Total Number of Legislation Referred to the Committee Enacted Into Law in Another Measure—9
- Total Number of Legislation Within Committee Jurisdiction Not Referred to the Committee Enacted Into Law—11
- Total Number of Committee-Initiated Correspondence—75
- Total Number of Official Committee Proceedings Conducted Entirely Remotely or with Remote Participation—79
- Total Number of Hearings Held by the Committee Conducted Entirely Remotely or with Remote Participation—61
- Total Number of Hearings Held by the Full Committee Conducted Entirely Remotely or with Remote Participation—11
- Total Number of Hearings Held by the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Conducted Entirely Remotely or with Remote Participation—9
- Total Number of Hearings Held by the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Conducted Entirely Remotely or with Remote Participation—13
- Total Number of Hearings Held by the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Conducted Entirely Remotely or with Remote Participation—9
- Total Number of Hearings Held by the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Conducted Entirely Remotely or with Remote Participation—12
- Total Number of Hearings Held by the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services Conducted Entirely Remotely or with Remote Participation—13

Total Number of Markup Sessions Held by the Full Committee
Conducted Entirely Remotely or with Remote Participation—11
Total Number of Other Committee Activity (Briefing) Conducted
Entirely Remotely or with Remote Participation—1
Total Number of Conference Reports Filed with Committee Mem-
bers Appointed as Conferees—0
Total Number of Issue Reports Written by the Committee—2
Total Number of Amicus Briefs Supported by the Committee—5

MINORITY VIEWS

Introduction

Committee Republicans in the 117th Congress stood firm in their efforts to oppose the destructive policies that defined the Committee Democrats' legislative agenda. In stark contrast to the hopeful words of bipartisanship the Chairman offered when he assumed the gavel, Committee Democrats pushed through radical, one-size-fits-all legislation benefiting left-wing special interests, including Big Labor and trial lawyers. More troubling, Democrats ceded legislating to the White House, essentially abdicating their responsibility to the Executive Branch. These Democrat-led efforts resulted in policies that will stifle the American economy, reduce opportunities for workers, punish small businesses, and hurt students. In stark contrast, Committee Republicans offered pro-growth, pro-worker, and pro-student reforms so that all Americans have the opportunity to succeed.

Policy Goals

EDUCATION

Committee Republicans worked to promote access to high-quality education and lifelong learning in order to prepare students to compete in the 21st century economy.

Fighting for K–12 Students

In the 117th Congress, Democrats consistently put the interests of teachers unions above students. During Committee hearings on K–12 issues, Republicans highlighted the harm done to students by school closures championed by Democrats and their union allies. On May 6, 2021, the Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee held a hearing titled “Addressing the Impact of COVID–19 on Students with Disabilities.” One witness highlighted the harm done to his son, saying:

“Our son is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and ADHD. Before school closed due to the pandemic, he was a very happy boy who loved school, especially being around his friends. But things changed quickly after schools closed. The lack of social contact and the routine of a normal school day, which are incredibly important to children with Autism, caused him to create an imaginary world [in the] Spring [of 2020] with “52 friends,” as he told us. By summer, his imaginary world had become so real to him that he struggled to differentiate real from the pretend, causing him to have visual, auditory, and tactile hallucinations which became so bothersome that on his [ninth] birthday, he asked me, ‘Daddy, can I die for my

birthday?”. . . The doctors told us that his symptoms were from a massive deterioration of his Autism due to the social isolation.”¹

Learning loss data also demonstrates the profound academic harm caused by Democrats’ policies. Results on the National Assessment of Educational Progress showed historic declines in math and reading achievement during the pandemic. Nine-year-olds suffered the first ever decline in math scores and the largest decline in reading scores in 30 years.² These declines could cause lifelong harm to students. Harvard’s Center for Education Policy Research estimated such declines would represent a \$43,800 loss in expected lifetime earnings for each student affected.³

Unfortunately, Democrats rejected Republican proposals to get students back in the classroom. During consideration of the Committee’s portion of what would become the *American Rescue Plan Act*, Republicans offered the following five proposals to ensure that funds would be used to get students back in school or to provide families choices to meet students’ needs:

1. Rep. Rick Allen (R–GA) offered an amendment to require school districts accepting COVID aid to offer in-person instruction.

2. Rep. Greg Murphy (R–NC) offered an amendment to require school districts accepting COVID aid to offer in-person instruction to high-risk students.

3. Rep. Michelle Steel (R–CA) offered an amendment requiring school districts to reopen once all teachers had access to the COVID vaccine.

4. Rep. Mary Miller (R–IL) offered an amendment requiring school districts that did not offer in-person instruction to place COVID aid in education savings accounts for parents to use for private school tuition or other educational expenses such as technology or tutoring.

5. Rep. Bob Good (R–VA) offered an amendment to require school districts to document in writing and make public all negotiations between the district and the teachers union regarding school reopening.

Unfortunately, Democrats rejected each of these proposals.

Democrats’ unwillingness to put families first was a trend throughout the 117th Congress. Families are growing increasingly frustrated that too many schools are focused more on left-wing indoctrination than on academic instruction. In response, Republicans introduced H.R. 6056, the *Parents Bill of Rights Act*. This bill would require school districts to be transparent with parents about curriculum and how taxpayer funds are spent and would strengthen protections for student privacy and parental access to information about their children’s well-being. Democrats refused to consider this bill.

Democrats also rejected greater educational freedom for families. A high-quality education is the path out of poverty for millions and provides students with the tools and skills they need to build a successful life. Every child should have access to an excellent edu-

¹ https://republicans-edlabor.house.gov/uploadedfiles/congressional_testimony_reade.pdf.

² <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/highlights/ltt/2022/>.

³ <https://www.the74million.org/article/analysis-pandemic-learning-loss-could-cost-u-s-students-2-trillion-in-lifetime-earnings-what-states-schools-can-do-to-avert-this-crisis/>.

cation. No child should be limited by circumstances out of their control, such as where they live.

Rather than respond to families' overwhelming desire for better educational options, Democrats provided a rubber stamp for the Biden administration's illegal actions to shut down charter schools, which are providing a high-quality education to millions of students, mostly low-income and minority students, who would otherwise be trapped in failing traditional public schools. This is shameful. Equally shameful is Democrats' refusal to consider proposals that would expand families' access to all educational options.

Fighting for Better Postsecondary Education

The need for reform to our nation's postsecondary education system is more necessary now than it ever has been. During the first Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee hearing of the 117th Congress, former Ranking Member Greg Murphy (R-NC) encapsulated the issue and Committee Republicans goals, saying:

“Four in ten baccalaureate-degree recipients are underemployed in their first jobs after school. Roughly 60 percent of students complete their degree program within six years . . . With these unprecedented levels of taxpayer money being funneled into educational institutions, combined with valid concerns about return on investment, it is imperative that Congress take a close look at how the Department of Education and institutions of higher learning spent hard-earned taxpayer dollars, and consider necessary structural reforms to the Higher Education Act to serve students better . . . any conversation surrounding postsecondary education must aim to reduce the cost of attendance and boost graduation rates, while also supporting students to pursue the type of education *that works for them*—whether it be seeking a baccalaureate degree or pursuing equally valuable, skills-based alternatives.”⁴

In contrast, Democrats did not hold hearings focused on foundational and innovative reforms to the *Higher Education Act*, but instead reexamined support for issues that many on the Committee already agree upon. Democrats also missed the opportunity to convene hearings regarding rising college costs and essential reforms to the loan and repayment program so institutions of higher education no longer have an incentive to saddle students with excessive debt for degrees that provide little to no return on investment. Instead, Democrats conceded policymaking to the Biden administration and did not join with Committee Republicans in calls for oversight as the administration took unilateral action to push unlawful expansions of loan forgiveness programs.

Over the 117th Congress, the Biden administration refused to resume student loan repayment, costing taxpayers approximately \$4.3 billion per month, for a total of over \$100 billion. The administration also enacted illegal waivers rewriting the rules far beyond congressional intent for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness

⁴<https://republicans-edlabor.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=407303>.

(PSLF) program and Income Drive Repayment (IDR) plan, resulting in immediate loan cancellation available for over 3 million borrowers holding as much as \$145 billion in loans through these changes to PSLF and \$211 billion in loans under IDR. The Department of Education embarked on regulatory overhauls to the Borrower Defense to Repayment process, permanent changes to Public Service Loan Forgiveness and other areas regarding federal student loans that are estimated to cost at least \$85 billion. The mounting costs of the Executive branch's actions were all detailed in Ranking Member Virginia Foxx's "Letter to America."⁵ The administration has yet to release the full details of its new income-driven repayment plan, but from what has been previewed, it is clear the administration is attempting to provide backdoor "free" college through the loan program.

The unprecedented cost of these executive changes is exacerbated by the July 2022 Government Accountability Office's (GAO) report which found the Department of Education has significantly underestimated the true cost of the Direct Loan program for decades.⁶ GAO's analysis concluded that the Department of Education's budget estimate was off by \$311 billion between 1997 and 2021 and that over half of the error was due to inaccurate and faulty assumptions about borrowers.⁷ In light of the administration's inaccurate understanding of the cost of the loan program and unfettered willingness to discharge loans through program changes and mass debt cancellation, Ranking Member Virginia Foxx, (R-NC) Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) and Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN) introduced H.R. 8655, the *Responsible Education Assistance through Loan (REAL) Reforms Act*. This legislation ends uncapped borrowing in the Grad PLUS program and institutes reasonable loan limits, gives institutions the flexibility to adjust borrowing limits, eliminates regressive loan forgiveness, provides targeted relief for borrowers in the most need, and creates the Workforce Pell Grant which will allow the Pell Grant to be used for short-term, career-focused programs that provide valuable credentials for in-demand jobs. Committee Democrats offered no legislation to address the failure of the student loan program, but introduced H.R. 8872, the *Lowering Obstacles to Achievement Now (LOAN) Act*, which would only double down on the failed policies of the past that will exacerbate the problems of rising costs and diminishing quality that plague our postsecondary education system costing students, families, and taxpayers billions in the process.

Unfortunately, on August 24, 2022, the Biden administration announced their student loan bailout which would require 87 percent of adults who do not have loans to pay the student loan debts of the 13 percent who chose to take on student loans. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that debt cancellation would cost \$400 billion,⁸ while outside experts estimate that, when combined with administration's new IDR plan, the cost of the administration's student debt scheme could reach \$1 trillion.⁹ This illegal ac-

⁵ https://republicans-edlabor.house.gov/uploadedfiles/7.20.22_letter_to_america_final.pdf.

⁶ <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-105365>.

⁷ Id.

⁸ <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2022-09/58494-Student-Loans.pdf>.

⁹ <https://budgetmodel.wharton.upenn.edu/issues/2022/8/26/biden-student-loan-forgiveness>.

tion by the Executive branch required examination by the legislative branch. On September 7, 2022, Committee Republicans sent a letter to Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) requesting a hearing to examine the implementation of the administration's reckless student loan bailout, stating, "when the executive branch walks so far outside of its lane, we can come together in Congress and demand accountability."¹⁰ The majority did not invite the Department nor any administration officials to testify on these unprecedented actions.

Committee Republicans are focused on responsible policy solutions that protect the interests of students and taxpayers to reform our nation's postsecondary education system into a driving force for the American economy.

Fighting for a Better Workforce Development System

Building a more resilient workforce development system has long been a priority for Committee Republicans.

On May 13, 2021, Democrats brought H.R. 447, the *National Apprenticeship Act of 2021*, to the floor. The Democrats' bill will force job creators to deal with overly prescriptive requirements and will close pathways to new innovative apprenticeship models. Committee Republicans offered an amendment that would create more pathways to work by giving job creators the flexibility to innovate and develop high-quality earn-and-learn programs without Washington overreach. Democrats claimed their bill expanded apprenticeship opportunities while maintaining a check on quality. However, giving unions what they want, as the Democrat bill did, does not amount to quality. In reality, their bill limits opportunities and stifles innovation in the field. Alternatively, Republicans offered a complete substitute amendment that could have been signed into law and would have delivered on the promise of expanding apprenticeship opportunities.

During the 117th Congress, Democrats also marked up H.R. 7309, the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022*, and brought it to the Floor for a vote. This bill failed to make critical reforms to the nation's public workforce system that are needed to close the skills gap and connect job seekers with family-sustaining jobs. Instead of modernizing an outdated system to address current economic needs, the bill moved backwards—increasing union involvement, Washington bureaucracy, and burdens on employers.

Republicans offered a complete substitute amendment that would inject needed innovation into the workforce system and offer upward mobility for job seekers. With more than 10 million unfilled jobs and 6 million unemployed individuals, steps need to be taken to connect unemployed or underemployed individuals with new education and work opportunities. The Republican substitute refocused WIOA on skills development, rather than needless bureaucracy, so that job seekers can receive the education needed to qualify for open jobs. The substitute also encouraged innovative programs to participate in WIOA and clarified that online programs can participate. These programs offer lifelong learners flexibility to

¹⁰ https://republicans-edlabor.house.gov/uploadedfiles/loanactionslettertorcs_final_.pdf.

continue upskilling while also caring for their family or working another job.

Since competition drives better results, the Republican substitute also encouraged programs with a proven track record of successfully helping American workers succeed. The Republican proposal used real outcomes to measure success and encouraged states to focus on successful programs through pay-for-performance funding.

While the Democrats' bill missed an opportunity to meet the needs of job seekers and to rely on employers to determine the kind of skills needed for in-demand jobs, the Republican substitute offered American workers an opportunity to grow their skills without crippling student debt and to quickly enter the workforce equipped with the experience and knowledge employers are looking for. The Republican proposal also added important accountability mechanisms to ensure taxpayer dollars are being put to effective use and job seekers are able to access programs with a track record of success.

Supporting Child Nutrition

Despite schools just beginning the return to regular operation of the school meal programs, Democrats offered a reauthorization proposal that would add significant complexity and costs to the programs. Republicans opposed that bill, believing it was the wrong time to reauthorize these programs. The Democrats' bill largely legislates by looking backwards and puts forward their policy wish list.

This bill dramatically increases costs and burdens by unnecessarily expanding existing programs. The Committee did not have a cost estimate for the bill prior to the markup, but it is anticipated to add tens of billions of dollars to taxpayers' debt. One program which the bill expands is Community Eligibility. This expansion will increase costs for taxpayers by providing more free meals to those families that can afford to pay their fair share. Additionally, the bill significantly expands the summer food service program by expanding the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program. This change is not accompanied by any off-setting cuts or changes to the current summer program, creating significant integrity concerns by potentially providing duplicate meals for many children rather than working to provide meals to as many children as possible.

The bill also expands the authority of the federal government unnecessarily. The bill first does this by overstepping the appropriate limits of the federal government by requiring the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to issue guidance on the school day schedule, specifically the length of lunch. Scheduling the school day is a local issue, not the concern of the USDA Secretary. The bill also creates a new advisory committee on unpaid meal debt. While unpaid debt certainly harms both schools and students, a task force in D.C. is not going to solve the problem.

The Democrats' bill also misses opportunities which could in fact be addressed at this time. First, the bill fails to simplify child nutrition programs, but instead requires additional and overlapping regulations that will increase program costs and complexity. Requiring new regulations on additives and "other potentially harmful substances" increases complexity and costs, and it leaves

schools and other program providers unsure about what foods are allowable in the program. Second, the bill fails to address significant and long-time administrative issues in the programs. This includes limiting unnecessary administrative reviews, preventing the challenges created by the last school meal programs' regulations, and removing onerous requirements like paid meal equity. While Republicans did not offer a comprehensive substitute, there were several amendments offered that would improve the bill and the program overall if enacted. Those include the following:

1. Reps. McClain (R-MI) and Fulcher (R-ID) offered—and withdrew—an amendment to ensure potatoes remain allowable as vegetable under the programs.

2. Rep. McClain offered an amendment to prohibit all new changes from being enacted unless an independent study is conducted to ensure the program won't increase inflation or the changes can be implemented once inflation drops to 2 percent. This amendment was defeated in a roll call vote.

3. Rep. Thompson (R-PA), along with Reps. Stefanik, Fulcher, and Keller (R-PA), offered an amendment to address whole milk and chocolate milk in school meals and allow greater choice of milk in the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program. This amendment was defeated by a voice vote.

4. Rep. Stefanik offered an amendment that would address the infant formula contracting requirements in WIC by requiring two manufacturers per state or state consortia. While it received bipartisan support, the amendment failed by roll call vote.

5. Reps. Good and Miller offered—and withdrew—an amendment to require nutrition regulations promulgated under the bill to make grain-based desserts eligible for reimbursement.

6. Rep. Walberg (R-MI) offered an amendment to ensure food substitutions for religious needs are allowed. This amendment was adopted.

7. Reps. Miller and Good offered an amendment to eliminate the change the Democrats made to the definition of woman and therefore to re-define pregnant woman, breastfeeding woman, and postpartum woman as a woman. This amendment was defeated on a party line vote.

8. Reps. Grothman (R-WI) and Harshbarger (R-TN) offered an amendment to prohibit enforcement of the May 5, 2022, memo on Title IX enforcement as it relates to child nutrition programs. This amendment was defeated on a partisan vote.

9. Rep. Harshbarger offered an amendment to require a feasibility study before issuing new regulations. This study would determine the cost increase these potential standards would impose, the timeline for availability of food meeting these standards, and the increase to plate waste these standards might cause. This amendment was also defeated on a party line vote.

Fighting to Protect Religious Organizations

Committee Democrats convened a markup of H.R. 5129, the *Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act of 2021*, on March 16, 2022, and brought it to the floor on May 13, 2022. In this bill, Democrats sought to strip longstanding protections for faith-based providers from the Community Services Block Grant

(CSBG) program. Over 19,000 faith-based organizations participate in the CSBG program and provide critical services to low-income Americans. Eliminating protections for these providers flies in the face of the valuable work they do and risks harming low-income Americans. Rep. Tim Walberg offered an amendment to reinstate the current law protections, affirming that any faith-based organization that participates in the CSBG program can continue to live out their faith, in keeping with the First Amendment. However, the Democrats continued their attack on religious liberty and rejected the amendment. This bill was not taken up by the Senate for consideration, so the important protections for religious organizations sought by the Walberg amendment remain in place.

Democrats also marked up H.R. 2119, the *Family Violence Prevention and Services Act* (FVPSA) this Congress and brought the legislation to the floor for a vote. This bill strikes longstanding non-discrimination provisions and replaces them with a cross-reference to the *Violence Against Women Act*, a provision that expands protected classes to include actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. Under this change, religious organizations could be forced to hire individuals who do not share their beliefs and/or be required to jump through additional hoops to hire individuals of the same faith. In response, Republicans offered a complete substitute amendment that would have reauthorized FVPSA without harming religious organizations. These organizations play a vital role in serving individuals who have suffered from abuse, and under the Republican substitute, they would be able to continue offering services without compromising their faith.

WORKFORCE

Committee Republicans are committed to providing the best outcomes for workers, small businesses, and job creators through policies that will allow the workforce to flourish without overly burdensome government intrusion.

Fighting to Protect Workers and Small Businesses

Democrats consistently pander to union bosses and other special interests at the expense of American workers. This was most apparent in their bill, H.R. 842, the *Protecting the Right to Organize Act*, a sweeping and socialist backward-looking bill that would harm the economy and provide a political gift to self-interested labor-union leaders, while diminishing or extinguishing the rights of workers and employers alike. This bill included a far-reaching wish list of radical labor policy changes which benefit union bosses and punish job creators, including a card-check-style union-election voting scheme, provisions undermining the privacy rights of employees, nationwide adoption of California's unworkable and discredited "ABC" worker classification test, a repeal of 27 states' right-to-work laws, and reinstatement of discredited, punitive Obama-era regulations.

On September 14, 2022, the Committee held a hearing titled "In Solidarity: Removing Barriers to Organizing." At the hearing, the Democrats' distaste for worker freedom and free enterprise was obvious. Their rhetoric during the hearing pushed the tired narrative that Democrats believe all workers want to unionize and that with-

out union representation, workers are exploited. Republicans countered these falsehoods by citing survey data showing only 11 percent of non-union employees describe themselves as “extremely interested” in joining a union while 58 percent say they are “not interested at all.”¹¹ American workers’ lack of interest in labor unions is well-documented by the decades-long decline in private-sector union membership, reaching the lowest recorded level of 6.1 percent in 2021.¹² Rather than coerce workers to join unions, Committee Republicans took a more balanced approach and stated their commitment to ensuring workers have the freedom to choose whether they want to join a union or not.

Committee Republicans also strongly opposed H.R. 7701, the *Wage Theft and Wage Recovery Act*, which amends the *Fair Labor Standards Act* (FLSA) to expand pay-related reporting mandates on employers, create new compensatory rights for workers, and expand civil and criminal enforcement penalties. When opposing this bill, Republicans emphasized that H.R. 7701 would impose punitive and excessive penalties on employers for technical or unintentional FLSA violations that could bankrupt a small business for a mere technical error. The legislation’s burdensome recordkeeping mandates, monetary penalties, and litigation risks on job creators would also have a chilling impact on independent contracting and business-to-business relationships like the franchise model. The risk of litigation and monetary penalties under H.R. 7701 for potential technical or disputed FLSA violations would cause companies to avoid these alternative business models that are key drivers of economic growth and job creation.

In addition, Committee Republicans fought back against President Biden’s illegal and authoritarian COVID–19 vaccination-and-testing mandate for private sector workers.¹³ On November 17, 2021, led by Workforce Protections Subcommittee Republican Leader Fred Keller (R–PA), Republican Members of the Committee introduced a *Congressional Review Act* resolution of disapproval (H.J. Res. 65) to nullify the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) mandate. Further, Committee Republicans submitted numerous letters to OSHA questioning the agency’s statutory authority to promulgate the rule.¹⁴ Republican Leader Foxx and Reps. Rick Allen (R–GA), Elise Stefanik (R NY), and Jim Banks (R–IN) led 136 Republican Members of the House in filing an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court arguing that Congress did not give OSHA the authority to impose a vaccine mandate and urging SCOTUS to stay the mandate.¹⁵ The Court agreed, and the mandate was defeated in a win for America’s workers.¹⁶

¹¹ Justin McCarthy, *U.S. Approval of Labor Unions at Highest Point Since 1965*, GALLUP, Aug. 30, 2022, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/398303/approval-labor-unions-highest-point-1965.aspx>.

¹² SEAN P. REDMOND, U.S. CHAMBER OF COM., UNION MEMBERSHIP DROPS TO PREVIOUS LOW IN 2021 (Jan. 26, 2022), <https://www.uschamber.com/employment-law/unions/union-membership-drops-to-previous-low-2021>.

¹³ COVID–19 Vaccination and Testing; Emergency Temporary Standard, 86 Fed. Reg. 61402 (Nov. 5, 2021).

¹⁴ See, e.g., letter from Reps. Virginia Foxx & Fred Keller to Al Stewart, Acting Sec’y of Lab. (Feb. 25, 2021), https://republicans-edlabor.house.gov/uploadedfiles/02.25.21_foxx_keller_osh_ets_letter_-_signed.pdf.

¹⁵ NFIB v. OSHA, No. 21A244 (U.S. Dec. 2021) (brief of Members of Congress as *amici curiae* in support of applicants), https://allen.house.gov/uploadedfiles/moc_amicus_final.pdf.

¹⁶ NFIB v. OSHA, 142 S. Ct. 661 (2022).

Finally, Committee Republicans led the fight to preserve the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s (EEOC) rule facilitating the speedy resolution of discrimination charges filed by individuals with the agency. The *Civil Rights Act* requires EEOC to attempt to “conciliate”—or work with employers to resolve a discrimination claim—before litigation begins. However, EEOC had not updated its conciliation procedures in 43 years. A January 2021 rule fixed the failed EEOC conciliation process by enhancing fairness and transparency, avoiding expensive and time-consuming litigation, and ensuring that EEOC honors its statutory obligation to engage in good faith conciliation efforts before filing lawsuits.¹⁷ Republican Leader Foxx led unanimous Republican opposition on the House Floor against S.J. Res. 13, a Democrat *Congressional Review Act* resolution of disapproval overturning the 2021 conciliation rule.

Fighting to Protect Religious Contractors

Committee Republicans fought to preserve the freedom of religion. In November 2021, the Department of Labor (DOL) published a proposed rule to rescind the Trump administration’s rule clarifying the rights and obligations of religious organizations participating in federal contracting.¹⁸ In December 2021, Republican Leader Foxx and Rep. Russ Fulcher, Republican Leader of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services, wrote to Secretary of Labor Walsh strongly opposing this proposed rule.¹⁹ The letter noted that the Trump-era rule provides clarity and certainty and encourages wider participation in the federal contracting system. The letter also recognized that the Trump-era rule affirms the importance of protecting the free exercise of religion. Committee Republicans encourage the Biden administration to change course by not rescinding the Trump administration’s rule.

Fighting to Empower Patients, Families, and the Employer-Based Health Care System

Committee Republicans support affordable, employer-sponsored health care options that cover 159 million Americans. We have rallied behind efforts to ban surprise medical billing, increase price transparency in the health care market, and preserve the Trump administration’s actions to lower health care costs.

Committee Republicans are further committed to protecting employer-sponsored coverage by rejecting attempts by the Biden administration and Democrats to increase health costs by moving workers from the group markets to the Obamacare exchanges. We rejected Democrats’ attempts to expand their radical drug-pricing scheme and price caps under the *Employee Benefits Income Security Act* (ERISA), which would hide the true costs of prescription drugs like insulin and increase premiums.²⁰ We also fought against

¹⁷ Update of Commission’s Conciliation Procedures, 86 Fed. Reg. 2974 (Jan. 14, 2021).

¹⁸ Proposal To Rescind Implementing Legal Requirements Regarding the Equal Opportunity Clause’s Religious Exemption, 86 Fed. Reg. 62,115 (proposed Nov. 9, 2021).

¹⁹ Letter from Reps. Virginia Foxx & Russ Fulcher to Martin J. Walsh, Sec’y of Lab. (Dec. 8, 2021), https://republicans-edlabor.house.gov/uploadedfiles/proposed_rescission_of_religious_contractor_rule_-_comment_letter_dec_8_2021.pdf.

²⁰ See, e.g., Press Release, Comm. on Educ. & Lab. Republicans, Democrats’ Drug Pricing Scheme Jeopardizes Future Cures (Dec. 9, 2021), <https://republicans-edlabor.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=407961>; Press Release, Comm. on Educ. & Lab. Republicans,

Democrat efforts to advance H.R. 7780, the *Mental Health Matters Act*, which would create civil monetary penalties for employers who violate vague mental health parity requirements. The bill would additionally expand the ability of trial lawyers, plan participants, and the DOL to sue plans that voluntarily offer mental health benefits. Lastly, Committee Republicans fought to protect ERISA plans from a Department of Health and Human Services mandate requiring them to cover abortion and transgender benefits or face penalties for violating Obamacare discrimination laws.²¹

Fighting to Protect Retirement Savers

Committee Republicans worked in a bipartisan fashion to advance H.R. 5891, the *Retirement Improvement and Savings Enhancement Act*, to expand access to workplace retirement plans and to ensure that the nation's retirement system better serves workers, retirees, and employers. H.R. 5891 was incorporated into H.R. 2954, the *Securing a Strong Retirement Act*, which passed the House on March 29, 2022, with an overwhelming majority.

Unfortunately, Committee Democrats rushed ahead with a more partisan retirement bill, H.R. 7310, the *Protecting America's Retirement Security Act*. This proposal takes a heavy-handed, government-knows-best approach to retirement saving by second-guessing workers' decisions. It also increases government waste by spending taxpayer dollars on new and unnecessary government programs. H.R. 7310 would also make it more difficult—sometimes impossible—for workers to access savings during emergencies or hardships.

Committee Republicans opposed the *American Rescue Plan Act's* (ARPA) taxpayer bailout of failing and insolvent multiemployer pension plans, which neglected much-needed reforms to protect workers and retirees from future underfunding. In August 2021, Republican Leader Foxx and Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA), Republican Leader of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions (HELP), submitted a comment letter in response to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's (PBGC) interim final rule implementing ARPA's irresponsible bailout.²² In response to a request from Republican Leader Foxx and Budget Committee Republican Leader Jason Smith (R-MO), the Congressional Budget Office found that Democrats' multiemployer pension bailout will cost taxpayers more than \$90 billion.²³

Committee Republicans also fought Democrat efforts to impose their political and ideological preferences on workers' retirement savings. Republican Leaders Foxx and Allen sent a letter opposing DOL's proposed rule which would jeopardize retirement savings by effectively requiring retirement plans to consider specific environ-

Foxx Opposes Democrats' Radical Drug Pricing Scheme (Mar. 31, 2022), <https://republicans-edlabor.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=408193>.

²¹ See Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities, 87 Fed. Reg. 47,824 (proposed Aug. 4, 2022).

²² Letter from Reps. Virginia Foxx & Rick Allen to Gordon Hartogensis, Dir., PBGC (Aug. 11, 2021), https://republicans-edlabor.house.gov/uploadedfiles/pbgc_letter.pdf.

²³ Letter from Phillip L. Swagel, Dir., Cong. Budget Off., to Reps. Virginia Foxx & Jason Smith (Sept. 30, 2022), <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2022-09/58540-PBGC.pdf>.

mental, social, and governance factors when selecting and monitoring retirement investments.²⁴

Oversight

During the 117th Congress, Committee Republicans have conducted vigorous oversight on its key workforce agencies—DOL, the National Labor Relations Board, EEOC, and PBGC. Through its submission of more than 75 oversight and comment letters, Committee Republicans held the Biden administration accountable. These oversight letters highlighted numerous instances of the Biden administration’s executive overreach, its constant demonstration of union favoritism, its agencies’ preferences for enforcement-only policies, and examples of ethical lapses made by senior administration officials.

Additionally, Committee Republicans focused oversight on the Department of Education’s mishandling of the student loan portfolio. Republicans have sent more than 25 letters to the Department regarding the repayment pause, the cost of the student loan portfolio, and other issues impacting federal student aid. In addition to student aid, Republicans sent 10 requests to GAO to examine other programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee. One request asked for an examination of the Head Start program which revealed continued potential fraud in the program leading Republicans to formally request a hearing on the topic. Finally, Republicans have continued efforts to examine the woeful administration of AmeriCorps and the agency’s repeated failures surrounding its audits.

Conclusion

Committee Democrats’ priorities during the 117th Congress focused on dangerous, socialist policies that amounted to little more than a government-endorsed power grab.

While Committee Democrats continue to pursue Washington-knows-best policies that limit choice, opportunity, and freedom, Committee Republicans continue to offer policies that give students the choice to learn in a classroom that fits their needs, empower workers with the tools they need to succeed, and give job creators the flexibility they need to thrive.

VIRGINIA FOXX,
Ranking Member.
 GLENN “GT” THOMPSON.
 TIM WALBERG.
 GLENN GROTHMAN.
 RICK W. ALLEN.
 JIM BANKS.
 JAMES COMER.
 FRED KELLER.
 BURGESS OWENS.
 LISA C. McCLAIN.
 DIANA HARSHBARGER.

²⁴ Letter from Reps. Foxx & Allen to Martin J. Walsh, Sec’y of Lab. (Dec. 13, 2021), https://republicans-edlabor.house.gov/uploadedfiles/12.13.21_comment_letter_on_esg_investing.pdf.

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