

Circle of Protection Statements on House Passage of the Build Back Better Act

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

We commend the House of Representatives for passing the Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376), legislation that makes progress on Evangelical Lutheran Church in America advocacy priorities including transformational investments in anti-poverty programs, advancements in racial equity, measures to address the climate crisis, and temporary protections for immigrant neighbors. We continue to urge further action, inspired by the image of God in each of us, towards permanent relief for our immigrant siblings.

This legislation will now move to the Senate where Lutheran voices are needed as Senators continue to debate and negotiate priorities important to vulnerable communities and the common good. Alongside Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, joined by 29 ELCA Bishops, we urge the Senate to pass Build Back Better quickly.

Letter: [CoB-letter-Pandemic-Recovery-111821.pdf \(elca.org\)](#)

National African American Clergy Network Applauds Build Back Better Bill Passage:

November 19, 2021--The **National African American Clergy Network** of denominations and independent church leaders applauds the House of Representatives for passing the transformational **Build Back Better Bill**.

In the spirit of God who calls us to care for the "least of these" as evident of our obedience, the Bill brings new hope, opportunities, and needed help to millions of Black children and families. Many elements of the legislation create a more stable future for Black children like the Child Tax Credit, Universal Pre-K, and college support through Pell Grants. There are many other significant elements of BBB that produce significant racial and economic equity:

- Black working and struggling families will reap huge benefits with housing support to Black renters, with 30% now paying over half their income in rent.
- The bill represents the most comprehensive investment in affordable homes, boosting housing supply and reducing price pressure for renters and homeowners, through the construction and improvement of more than 1 million affordable homes.
- Black Americans can look forward to added health care coverage as they were highest among those who fell into the Medicaid "coverage gap" and were locked out of coverage because their state refused to expand Medicaid.
- HBCUs will receive critically needed and targeted research infrastructure funds to insure that generations of students of color receive a high quality college education.

We applaud President Biden's leadership, the unrelenting effort by congressional leaders, and call on the U.S. Senate to pass this groundbreaking legislation.

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., Dr. T. DeWitt Smith, Jr.

Co-Conveners, National African American Clergy Network

Rev. David Beckmann, Coordinator, Circle of Protection:

“We have cause to start celebrating Thanksgiving a week early! Together with the other two big economic packages that have been enacted this year, the Build Back Better bill will make our nation more just, sustainable, and prosperous for years to come.”

The Episcopal Church Statement on House Passing of the Build Back Better Act:

The Episcopal Church applauds the passage of H.R.5376, the Build Back Better Act in the House of Representatives. This transformative legislation will reduce child poverty, expand health care, make the tax system fairer, and invest vital funds in our effort to confront the climate crisis. Our values as a people of faith call us to advocate for the most vulnerable in our society, whom this legislation will uplift. We thank all the members who voted in favor of the bill and encourage the Senate to take up and pass the legislation as quickly as possible.

Rev. Carlos L Malavé, Latino Christian National Network:

“The Build Back Better bill will reduce inequality, spread opportunity, and create the conditions to bring millions of Americans out of poverty. The bill will set in motion an aggressive plan to confront the existential threat of global warming. It is an aggressive and bold plan to support American (including Latino) families of today and for generations to come. Latinos thank the House of Representatives for moving the bill forward and urge the U.S. Senate to pass the legislation without delay.”

Bread Applauds House Passage of BBB

Washington, D.C. – Bread for the World today applauded the House of Representative’s passage of the Build Back Better Act. The bill includes critical provisions that will ensure our nation’s most vulnerable children receive the care and nutrition they need. Bread now urges senators to pass the legislation and retain or strengthen these provisions rather than deny them from the children and families who need them most.

The House bill expands the Child Tax Credit for another year and makes the full refundability of the credit permanent. The bill also strengthens child nutrition programs; invests in vital maternal health programs; and improves access to high-quality childcare. These provisions would make an immediate impact on the lives and well-being of millions of children and families across the country.

“The fact the House was able to pass a bill right before Thanksgiving that will help millions of families put food on the table should not be lost,” said Rev. Eugene Cho, president and CEO of Bread for the World. “As we enter the Christmas season, we are reminded that God requires us to care for our neighbors and provide food for those who experience hunger. We urge senators to keep this in mind as they work to pass their own version of the bill.”

<https://bread.org/news/bread-applauds-house-passage-bbb>

Friends Committee on National Legislation:

Quaker Lobby Applauds House Passage of Build Back Better Act

Washington, DC – The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) applauds House passage of the Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376) by a vote of 220-213. The bill, long supported by FCNL, now heads to the Senate where a close vote is expected. FCNL urges a quick vote in the Senate as soon as is possible.

“The Build Back Better bill is a momentous step toward a society with equity, justice, and an earth restored. It continues the historic expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit which could cut child poverty nearly in half. It makes significant progress in reducing economic and racial and disparities throughout our country on issues affecting children and families that have not been addressed in decades,” said FCNL General Secretary Diane Randall.

“As Quakers, we believe in supporting people and lifting up their communities. That is the essence of seeing the Light of God in others. This bill does that and goes farther than any other legislation in recent history. Investing in society and our common well-being is an investment in our country’s and planet’s future. I urge the Senate to pass it immediately.”

The Build Back Better Act also brings to fruition several policies FCNL has been advocating for. This includes permanent full refundability for the Child Tax Credit, extending the Earned Income Tax Credit, universal pre-k for 3- and 4-year-olds, and an investment of roughly \$150 billion in construction, rehabilitation, and improvement of more than 1 million affordable homes. The bill also includes important funding to reduce backlogs in the immigration system, provides thousands of visas for immigrants currently on waitlists, creates safeguards for our undocumented communities, and invests over half a trillion dollars in clean energy and addressing the climate crisis.

“We are so very close to securing permanent access to the Child Tax Credit for low-income families and struggling parents. We cannot miss this once-in-a-generation opportunity to lift millions of our children out of poverty,” said Amelia Kegan, FCNL’s domestic policy legislative director. “We did not get everything we were after. No one did. Much work remains for climate and immigration reform is still on the horizon, but now is the time to finally pass this bill and get this work done.”

To learn more, please visit www.fcnl.org.

<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2021-11/quaker-lobby-applauds-house-passage-build-back-better-act>

Georgetown University’s Jim Wallis applauds House passage of Build Back Better Act

Washington, D.C., November 19, 2021 – Congress is on the precipice of making an historic investment in American families that could lift millions of children out of poverty, said Jim Wallis, founding director of Georgetown University’s new Center on Faith and Justice, after the House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better Act on Friday.

“Congress has arrived at a *kairos* moment, when transformational change is within reach. These are measures that I have been fighting for for 50 years,” said Wallis, an anti-poverty advocate, Christian ethicist and public theologian. “I hope and pray that critical elements of this framework, especially those that support poor people, make it into the final bill. We will be watching Senate votes very closely and prayerfully. As faith leaders, we stand ready to challenge any obstruction of measures that will most impact poor families and children, which is our religious obligation.

The Build Back Better Bill includes a one-year extension of the Child Tax Credit, a measure Wallis advocated for on Capitol Hill and in the White House. According to researchers, the CTC has the potential to reduce child poverty in the U.S. by half.

The bill also invests billions in affordable housing, provides universal pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds and offers tax credits to people in states that cannot access Medicaid -- all policies that could lift millions out

of poverty, Wallis said. The measures are paid for by increasing taxes on wealthy people and corporations.

“We have a moral obligation to ensure that every child — all made in the image of God -- has the chance to thrive,” Wallis said. “That is what it means to be ‘pro-family.’” And the critical climate change provisions are a direct way to fulfill our call to be stewards of God's creation--and the future for all our children.

Sojourners Applauds House Vote on Build Back Better

Statement from Sojourners President Adam Taylor

WASHINGTON, DC – Sojourners applauds the House passage of the Build Back Better Act this morning. This bill includes historic investments that will ensure the most needy and vulnerable receive the care and support they deserve. As people of faith, we now call on the Senate to prioritize passing this historic legislation and retain or strengthen provisions that benefit our families and communities.

Sojourners President Rev. Adam Taylor:

As President of Sojourners—a faith-based advocacy organization that represents and mobilizes thousands of Christian leaders and believers across our country and an award-winning publication dedicated to issues of social justice that span faith, politics, and culture—I **want to thank and congratulate the House of Representatives for passing the Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376) and now strongly urge all members of the Senate to promptly pass this Act.**

The House version includes pro-family, anti-poverty provisions such as expansion of the Child Tax Credit for another year and makes the full refundability of the credit permanent. The bill also would also increase access to affordable housing; make overdue improvements in maternal, newborn, and child health; address the ongoing climate crisis; and provide help to millions of essential workers, immigrants, and TPS holders—all while creating jobs, lowering costs for millions, and making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share.

The passage in the House demonstrates the best of our civic and religious values because this bill helps our nation prioritize the needs of the historically under-served and under-resourced in our country. The historic investments included in the Build Back Better Act will positively impact millions of Americans in rural, urban, and suburban communities, especially in areas that have struggled with the pandemic that has ravaged our nation. As our nation faces the imperative to build a more just and inclusive new normal that embraces the Christian call to love thy neighbor as thyself, I’m grateful that a majority of the House stood up for the common good.

Sojourners calls on the Senate to act in good conscience and vote in favor of this historic piece of anti-poverty, pro-family legislation. Now is the time to move this country toward being a more perfect union by making long overdue investments that will address problems that have plagued the United States for generations.

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About Sojourners - Sojourners, a faith-inspired nonprofit, articulates the biblical call to social justice through its magazine and digital publication and convenes, equips and mobilizes people to put their faith into action while building alliances for effective advocacy. Sojourners envisions a future in which Christians put their faith into action in the passionate pursuit of social justice, peace, and environmental stewardship, working in partnership with people of conscience and from other faith traditions. <https://sojo.net/>