



Summer for Progress 2017 Messaging

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Resisting the Trump administration and Republican Congressional agenda is only part of how we can move our country forward. Now is the time for Democrats to campaign on a bold agenda and fight to create an America that works for everyone. If Democrats want to win in 2018 and take our country back from the billionaire class and Republicans, they need to start by supporting legislation that speaks to the real concerns facing the American people. We're fighting for a Congress that will put people before profits to create an America where everyone, regardless of the age, race, gender or economic status have access to health care, free college tuition, a livable planet, and a job that pays a living wage.

What: This summer progressives are organizing across the country to demand House Democrats cosponsor 8 bills:

- **Medicare for All** : H.R. 676 Medicare For All Act
- **College for All** : H.R. 1880 College for All Act of 2017
- **Worker Rights**: H.R.15 - Raise the Wage Act
- **Women's Rights**: H.R.771 - Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH Woman) Act of 2017
- **Voting Rights**: H.R.2840 - Automatic Voter Registration Act
- **Criminal Justice and Immigrant Rights**: Justice is Not For Sale Act of 2017
- **Tax on Wall Street**: H.R. 1144 - Inclusive Prosperity Act
- **Environmental Justice**: Climate Change Bill (to be introduced)

Why: The Democratic Party Platform makes it clear that Democrats must fight for these issues as a party. We're asking all House Democrats to commit to supporting our #PeoplesPlatform bills by signing on as a co-sponsor when Congress comes back in session in September.

Goal: Get a majority of Democratic House members to sign on as co-sponsors for the eight bills in September when members of Congress come back in Session.

How: This summer local groups around the country will contact their members of Congress to set up meetings to discuss why they should support the #PeoplesPlatform. We'll provide members with everything they need to get started including issue briefs and tool-kits on how to set up a meeting with their member of Congress and how to escalate to direct actions if members refuse to meet with constituents or sign on to the bills.

The Issues

(You can find text to each bill in the links below each bill number.)

Medicare for All

[H.R. 676 Medicare For All Act](#)

The U.S. spends more on healthcare per person, and as a percentage of gross domestic product, than any other advanced nation in the world, but all that money has not made us healthier. Instead, our high-priced health care system that leaves millions overlooked and we spend more yet end up with less coverage.

We need a system where all people can get the care they need to maintain and improve their health when they need it regardless of income, age or socioeconomic status.

The **Expanded And Improved Medicare For All Act (H.R. 676)**, introduced by Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.), would establish a privately-delivered, publicly-financed universal health care system, where patients, their physicians, and non-profit health care providers would be in charge of medical decisions -- not insurance companies. H.R. 676 would expand and improve the highly popular Medicare program and provide universal access to care to all Americans. The program would be primarily funded by a modest payroll tax on employers and employees, a financial transaction tax, and higher taxes on the wealthiest Americans.

Free College Tuition

[H.R. 1880: College for All Act of 2017](#)

In a highly competitive global economy, we need the best-educated workforce in the world. It is counter-productive to the best interests of our country and that hundreds of thousands of bright young people cannot afford to go to college, and that millions of others leave school with a mountain of debt that burdens them for decades. This shortsighted path to the future must end. Congress must ensure that every American who studies hard in school can go to college regardless of how much money their parents make and without going deeply into debt.

The **College for All Act of 2017 (H.R. 1880)**, introduced by Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (WA-07), would make public colleges and universities tuition-free for working families and to significantly reduce student debt. The legislation would eliminate tuition and fees at four-year public colleges and universities for families making up to \$125,000 and make community

college tuition- and fee-free for all. It would also reduce crushing student loan debt – which now exceeds credit card debt – for students and parents. The bill would cut all student loan interest rates for new borrowers in half; enable existing borrowers to refinance their loans based on the interest rates available to new borrowers – less than 2 percent for federal loans made to undergraduates; and prevent the federal government from profiting off the student loan program. The estimated \$600 billion cost of the legislation would be paid for by a separate bill to tax Wall Street speculation. By imposing a small Wall Street speculation tax of just 0.5 percent on stock trades, a 0.1 percent fee on bonds and a 0.005 percent fee on derivatives, the tax would raise at least \$600 billion over the next decade.

Minimum Wage

[H.R.15 - Raise the Wage Act](#)

Millions of Americans are working for inadequate wages. Nowhere in America can a person working for minimum wage afford a two bedroom apartment. We must ensure that no full-time worker lives in poverty. The current federal minimum wage must become a living wage. Congress must increase the minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour to a living wage of \$15 an hour.

The **Raise the Wage Act of 2017** was introduced by Representatives Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Keith Ellison (D-MN). The bill (H.R. 15/S. 1242) would raise the federal minimum wage to \$9.25 this year and increase it over the next seven years until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2024. After 2024, the minimum wage would be indexed to inflation to keep pace with growth in the typical worker's wages. The bill would also phase out the outdated subminimum wage for tipped workers, workers with disabilities, and workers under the age of 20.

Women's Reproductive Rights

[H.R. 771 - EACH Woman Act of 2017](#)

Our country still has a long way to go in addressing the issue of gender inequality. Many of the achievements that have been made for women's rights in the 20th century have been under attack—equal pay for equal work, access to reproductive health care, and affordable child care.

We are not going back to the days when women had to risk their lives to end an unwanted pregnancy. The decision about abortion must remain a decision for the woman and her doctor to make, not the government.

The **Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH Woman) Act of 2017 (H.R.771)** was introduced by Rep. Lee, Barbara (D-CA-13). This bill requires the federal government: (1) to ensure coverage for abortion care in public health insurance programs including Medicaid, Medicare, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); (2) as an

employer or health plan sponsor, to ensure coverage for abortion care for participants and beneficiaries; and (3) as a provider of health services, to ensure that abortion care is made available to individuals who are eligible to receive services. The federal government may not prohibit, restrict, or otherwise inhibit insurance coverage of abortion care by state or local governments or by private health plans. State and local governments may not prohibit, restrict, or otherwise inhibit insurance coverage of abortion care by private health plans.

Voting Rights

[H.R. 2840: The Automatic Voter Registration Act](#)

The fight for voting rights is inseparable from the struggle for democracy itself. Today, through other laws and actions such as requiring voters to show photo ID, discriminatory drawing of Congressional districts, restricting same-day registration and early voting and aggressively purging voter rolls—many state governments are actively working to restrict voting rights of African Americans, Latinos, students, and anyone who many others.

The **Automatic Voter Registration Act (H.R. 2840)** introduced by Rep. Cicilline, David N. (D-RI-1) amends the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require each State to ensure that each individual who provides identifying information to the State motor vehicle authority is automatically registered to vote in elections for Federal office held in the State unless the individual does not meet the eligibility requirements for registering to vote in such elections or declines to be registered to vote in such elections, and for other purposes.

Ending Private Prisons

[H.R.3227 - Justice is Not For Sale Act of 2017](#)

It is morally wrong that we have privatized prisons all over America. Together, African-Americans and Latinos comprised 57 percent of all prisoners in 2014, even though African-Americans and Latinos make up approximately one quarter of the US population. In addition, private prisons are the corporate beneficiaries of immigrant detention. Corporations should not be allowed to make a profit off of the suffering of black and brown people and by building more jails and keeping people behind bars. Congress must act to end the private prison system that allows corporations to profit off of human suffering.

The **H.R.3227 - Justice is Not For Sale Act of 2017**, introduced by Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) in 2017. The bill bars the federal government and state and local jurisdictions from contracting with private corporations to run prisons and detention facilities, reinstates the federal parole system, and makes several changes immigration detention law. The bill also makes major strides towards reducing the mass detention of immigrants in the United States, including ending the detention of immigrant families and undoing the the immigration detention bed quota mandated by Congress.

Tax on Wall Street

[H.R.1144 Inclusive Prosperity Act of 2017](#)

The issue of wealth and income inequality is the great moral, economic, and political issue of our time. Since the 1980s, there has been an enormous transfer of wealth from the middle class and the poor to the wealthiest people in this country. That is the Robin Hood principle in reverse. The fact that 58 percent of all new income since the Wall Street crash has gone to the top one percent is not accidental.

The **Inclusive Prosperity Act (H.R. 1144)**, introduced by Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN), would raise billions to invest in our economy by taxing Wall Street financial transactions. The bill would tax the sale of stocks, bonds and derivatives. The tax imposed will be 0.5 percent on stocks, 0.1 percent on bonds, and 0.005 percent on derivatives or other investments.

Climate Change and Climate Justice

***100 by 2035 bill will be introduced in the coming days**

Our addiction to and promotion of fossil fuels is rapidly warming the planet, presenting an existential threat to the future of life on earth. We are already feeling the impacts, which will only escalate exponentially, and low income communities and communities of color will be hit first and hardest. The science is clear that we must halt dirty fossil fuel projects and quickly and justly transition to 100% renewable energy. We cannot rely on half-measures or market-based solutions. We need bold action to move off fossil fuels and onto 100% renewable energy now.

The bill* will require 100% of electricity sold in the United States come from clean energy by 2035 with an interim benchmark of 80% by 2027; require 100% of car sales from manufacturers to be zero-emission vehicles by 2035; end federal fossil fuel subsidies and place a moratorium on new major fossil fuel projects; and importantly, provide for a just transition with a focus on environmental and economic justice communities.

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