

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
& THE WORKFORCE
DEMOCRATS

20
23

YEAR IN
REVIEW



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BILLS INTRODUCED

2023 AT-A-GLANCE

In the face of historic inaction by this Do-Nothing-Congress, the Education and Workforce Committee Democrats remained focused on the needs of students, families, workers, and our economy.

38

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REPUBLICAN INACTION

Despite 40 hearings and markups – mostly dedicated to culture war issues – Committee Republicans failed to move any bills to:

- ⊗ Fund K-12 public education: 0
- ⊗ Curb the rising cost of child care: 0
- ⊗ Protect children against soaring child labor law violations: 0
- ⊗ Defend workers' rights to form a union for higher wages, better benefits, and safer workplaces: 0
- ⊗ Strengthen the *Affordable Care Act*: 0

SIDE-BY-SIDE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

At this point in the 117th Congress, when Congressional Democrats were in the majority, Democrats passed, and the President had already signed into law:

- ✓ The largest one-time federal investment in K-12 education in history to help schools reopen safely, stay open safely, and make up for lost time in the classroom,
- ✓ Relief funding to help struggling institutions of higher education and prevent hunger, homelessness, and other hardships,
- ✓ A significant investment to rescue the child care system from the brink of collapse,
- ✓ Fully subsidized health care coverage for workers and families who lost their jobs,
- ✓ Expanded child nutrition programs to address the tragic pandemic-fueled surge in child hunger,
- ✓ Emergency funding for vital programs that prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect, support survivors of domestic violence, and help address the needs of older Americans,
- ✓ A solution to the multiemployer pension crisis that protected workers, retirees, businesses, and communities,
- ✓ A repeal of the Trump-era rule that undermined civil rights enforcement, and
- ✓ A fix to a broken system that improperly burdened teachers with loans.

By contrast, in the 118th Congress, Congressional Republicans were able to pass one bill, and have the President sign into law:

A clarification that the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* does not prevent students from using items considered to be dangerous weapons for the purpose of educational or extra-curricular activities

...with the help of Congressional Democrats.

2023 BIPARTISAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Throughout the first session of the 118th Congress, Education and the Workforce Committee Democrats have put people over politics and worked in a bipartisan manner to advance legislation to address the needs of students, families, workers, and our economy.

BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSE

Lower Costs, More Transparency Act (H.R. 5378)

Helps ensure that health care costs are driven by those who provide the highest quality services, not those with the most market power. (Includes parts of H.R. 4508, 4527, and 4507)

BILLS REPORTED OUT OF THE COMMITTEE

Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act (H.R. 6585)

Provides opportunities for students and workers looking to gain skills in high-demand fields by allowing Pell Grants to support students enrolled in high-quality, short-term workforce programs that will lead to career advancement.

A Stronger Workforce for America Act (H.R. 6655)

Makes critical improvements to the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* that will expand the skills development provided under the law, strengthen the relationship between employers and the workforce system, and put more Americans on the pathway to successful careers.

Opening Doors for Youth Act (H.R. 5511)

Helps address the challenges facing youth who become disconnected from school and work. (Reported out as part of H.R. 6655, *A Stronger Workforce for America Act*)

Hidden Fee Disclosure Act of 2023 (H.R. 4508)

Strengthens the requirements that Pharmacy Benefit Managers and Third-Party Administrators disclose compensation to plan fiduciaries. (Passed the House as part of H.R. 5378, the *Lower Costs, More Transparency Act*)

Health Data, Access, Transparency, and Affordability (DATA) Act of 2023 (H.R. 4527)

Ensures health plan fiduciaries are not contractually restricted from receiving cost or quality of care information about their plan. (Passed the House as part of H.R. 5378, the *Lower Costs, More Transparency Act*)

Transparency in Coverage Act of 2023 (H.R. 4507)

Codifies the "Transparency in Coverage" final rule to provide consumers with price transparency for medical services and prescription drugs. (Passed the House as part of H.R. 5378, the *Lower Costs, More Transparency Act*)

Transparency in Billing Act of 2023 (H.R. 4509)

Requires accurate billing practices by hospitals, ensuring that group health plans pay for appropriately billed services.

2023 DEMOCRATS' LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS



BILLS INTRODUCED

Workers Protecting Our Wage Earners' Rights (POWER) Act (H.R. 6634)

Equips the Department of Labor with the resources needed to tackle federal labor law violations, including child labor, wage theft, and workplace health and safety violations.

Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act of 2023 (H.R. 6581)

Strengthens anti-discrimination protections for older workers.

Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2023 (H.R. 6461)

Reforms and strengthens the program that provides benefits to coal miners suffering from black lung disease.

National Apprenticeship Week Resolution (H.Res. 866)

Designates the week of November 13, 2023, as "National Apprenticeship Week."

America's College Promise Act (H.R. 5998)

Makes community colleges and two-year Tribal Colleges and Universities more accessible by waiving tuition fees for eligible students.

Child Care Stabilization Act (H.R. 5433)

Addresses the child care funding cliff by providing \$16 billion in mandatory funding each year for the next five years to continue the successful Child Care Stabilization Grant program.

Wage Theft Prevention and Wage Recovery Act (H.R. 5402)

Puts hard-earned wages back in workers' pockets and cracks down on employers who unfairly withhold wages from their employees.

Missing Children's Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2023 (H.R. 5224)

Renews the *Missing Children's Assistance Act* and makes critical updates to help the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children better support youth who are missing, reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimization.

Rebuild America's Schools Act (H.R. 5049)

Invests more than \$130 billion in our schools' physical and digital infrastructure. The resources are targeted at high-poverty schools with facilities that pose health and safety risks to students and staff.

Lowering Drug Costs for American Families Act (H.R. 4895)

Further lowers prescription drug prices for families and reins in pharmaceutical price gouging.

Asunción Valdivia Heat Illness, Injury, and Fatality Prevention Act of 2023 (H.R. 4897)

Helps ensure the safety and health of workers exposed to dangerous workplace heat conditions.

2023 DEMOCRATS' LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

BILLS INTRODUCED (CONTINUED)

Raise the Wage Act of 2023 (H.R. 4889)

Raises the federal minimum wage to \$17 by 2028 and gives up to 19 million Americans a long-overdue raise.

Direct Creation, Advancement, & Retention of Employment (CARE) Opportunity Act of 2023 (H.R. 4720)

Invests in training and increasing opportunities for our nation's direct care workers.

Protecting Children Act (H.R. 4440)

Provides federal worker protection agencies with the tools and resources to deter child labor violations and prevent harm to children from intensive work in dangerous jobs.

Protect Older Job Applicants (POJA) Act of 2023 (H.R. 3491)

Helps to protect older applicants from employment discrimination at the application phase.

Keeping All Students Safe Act (H.R. 3470)

Prohibits schools receiving federal taxpayer money from secluding children and bans dangerous restraint practices that restrict children's breathing, such as prone or supine restraint.

Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act (H.R. 3481)

Ensures that all workers, no matter the size of their employer or whether they are self-employed or part-time, have access to paid leave for every serious medical event every time it's needed.

Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2023 (H.R. 3445)

Holds federally funded programs, including schools, accountable for providing students with equal access to education by restoring the private right of action for students and parents to bring disparate impact claims under Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act*.

Strength in Diversity Act of 2023 (H.R. 3444)

Supports school districts developing, implementing, or expanding school desegregation initiatives by establishing a federal grant program to support voluntary, local efforts to increase school diversity.

Protecting America's Workers Act (H.R. 2998)

Strengthens and modernizes the *Occupation Safety and Health Act* for the first time in over 50 years by ensuring employers promptly correct hazardous working conditions, protecting whistleblowers from retaliation, and holding unscrupulous employers accountable for violations that cause illness, serious injury, or death to workers.

Child Care for Working Families Act (H.R. 2976)

Helps to comprehensively tackle the child care crisis and ensure families across America can find and afford the high-quality child care they need.

2023 DEMOCRATS' LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

BILLS INTRODUCED (CONTINUED)

National Apprenticeship Act of 2023 (H.R. 2851)

Creates nearly one million new Registered Apprenticeship, youth apprenticeship, and pre-apprenticeship opportunities by investing more than \$3.8 billion over five years.

Do No Harm Act (H.R. 2725)

Addresses the increasing use of religious freedom to undermine civil rights protections by restoring the *Religious Freedom Restoration Act* to its original purpose: to protect religious exercise while ensuring religious freedom is not used to erode our civil rights.

Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R. 2663)

Compels the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to quickly develop an enforceable standard to ensure that employers are providing workers with the safe workplaces they deserve.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2023 (H.R. 2604)

Reauthorizes and expands funding for programs focused on supporting survivors and preventing family and domestic violence.

Protecting Our Workers from Exploitation and Retaliation (POWER) Act (H.R. 1828)

Creates safe and just workplaces for all American workers by providing temporary protection from deportation for immigrant workers who experience retaliation for exercising their rights under existing labor and employment laws.

Jobs to Compete Act (H.R. 1655)

Expands Pell Grant eligibility to adults in high-quality, short-term training programs.

Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 17)

Combats wage discrimination and helps close the wage gap by strengthening the *Equal Pay Act of 1963* and ensuring women can challenge pay discrimination and hold employers accountable.

Lowering Obstacles to Achievement Now (LOAN) Act (H.R. 1731)

Lowers the cost of college for current and future student borrowers and their families.

Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act (H.R. 1263)

Helps states and employers transition workers with disabilities into fully integrated and competitive jobs, which includes earning at least the minimum wage alongside individuals without disabilities while phasing out the subminimum wage for individuals with disabilities.

Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act of 2023 (H.R. 20)

Protects workers' right to join together and bargain for higher wages, better benefits, and safer workplaces.

ED WORKFORCE DEMOCRATS

2101 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202-225-3725
DEMOCRATS-EDWORKFORCE.HOUSE.GOV

