



POLICY AGENDA

SAVE LIVES. SAVE LIVELIHOODS. RECOVER STRONGER.



PROMOTING BOTTOM UP SOLUTIONS FOR THE FIRST 100 DAYS

COVID-19 brought the economy to a halt and wreaked havoc on the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans.

We will recover, but we can do more than just return the country to the pre-pandemic status quo. As strong as the economy was at the start of 2020, we can emerge even stronger in 2021 – but doing so will require good policy and an active commitment from all Americans to engage their lawmakers and meet these challenges head on.

As Washington looks ahead to the First 100 Days, AFP will prioritize reforms to protect public health and save lives, get our economy going again and save livelihoods, and help our country recover stronger.

STOP THE PANDEMIC AND PREPARE FOR THE NEXT ONE

After COVID-19 hit, states and the federal government removed regulatory barriers that empowered innovators and health care workers to respond to the pandemic, and we can do more. We should take what we've learned and double down on these reforms to address the current pandemic while also preparing us to better handle the next one.

1. Pursue an aggressive “all-of-the-above” approach combining smarter testing, quicker vaccine deployment, more therapeutic tools, and permanently lower barriers to care to:
 - Empower Americans with better access to inexpensive, self-administered home rapid-tests.
 - Expedite FDA vaccine and therapeutics approvals.
 - Ensure the government’s vaccine distribution campaign is swift, transparent, equitable, and does not violate people’s fundamental civil and privacy rights.

2. Lift barriers to better care by making COVID-19 health reforms permanent and addressing the shortcomings of our health care system that the pandemic laid bare.
 - Codify the current numerous and highly beneficial short-term reforms in the areas of telehealth, occupational licensure, certificate-of-need laws, and the delivery of care across state lines, to slow the spread of COVID-19, better prepare us for future crises, and permanently improve access and reduce costs.
 - Codify the sensible FDA reforms that have saved lives by decentralizing bureaucratic oversight of infectious-disease tests.
-

RECOVER STRONGER

We must get people back to work, get the economy moving again, and help our country emerge from the pandemic stronger—all while defending against policies that undermine recovery.

1. Clear the way for people to get back to work quickly and safely, with the benefits of widely-available rapid testing.
 - Reassess government-mandated shutdowns frequently and critically to reopen businesses as soon as it is safe to do so.
 - Ensure responsible public health decisions regarding reopening can be made at the local level and applied fairly, with input from health experts, businesses, community leaders, and lawmakers.
 - Provide schools, religious institutions, and businesses liability protections so they have the certainty they need to operate responsibly and offer services to the public.
 - Expand opportunities to employment by eliminating unnecessary occupational licenses or by rejecting legislation like the PRO Act that would end right-to-work policies across the country and limit independent contractor opportunities for individuals.
2. Reject bailouts, massive spending, and other bad deals intended to address COVID-19 but that serve other interests and undermine economic recovery, hindering our ability to respond to any future crisis.
 - Ensure any federal assistance is timely, temporary, and targeted only to those impacted by the response to COVID.
 - Oppose bailouts to state and local governments.
 - Oppose government intervention into financial and housing markets, which has incurred unintended negative consequences in previous crises.
 - Oppose corporate welfare giveaways to politically favored special interests.
 - Cap any expansion of supplemental unemployment insurance compensation to no more than 100 percent of what individuals earned while working.
3. Advance a health care ‘Personal Option.’ Centralized, top-down approaches to health care reform, like “Medicare for All” or a “public option,” cannot give Americans what they want and deserve: more choice, more control, and more access to quality care at prices they can truly afford. To reach these goals, policy makers should prioritize a ‘Personal Option’ that is focused on the following:
 - Lowering costs, particularly for prescription drugs, by removing barriers to robust market competition.
 - Ending billing surprises and creating real price transparency by enforcing anti-fraud rules and regulating insurance more sensibly.
 - Protecting the vulnerable by restoring Medicaid to its original mission and modernizing Medicare.
 - Helping people, not insurance companies, by directing government assistance, when appropriate, to individuals rather than to insurers or government bureaucracies.
4. Keep tax burdens low and address unsustainable government spending. Laws like The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 allow Americans to keep more of what they earn and grew the economy – undoing this is the last thing people need.
 - Stop unsustainable government spending—driven by both parties—because rampant spending is just creating taxes in the future.
 - Make the pro-growth components of the TCJA permanent and oppose tax increases or tax proposals that are not growth oriented.
5. A strong economic recovery will depend on all sectors of the economy, and government picking winners and losers will only make economic recovery harder to achieve for all Americans.
 - Affordable and reliable energy is both a key driver of our economy and critical for working families struggling to make ends meet. Embrace innovations, remove barriers to voluntary efficiency and environmental progress, reorient programs away from restrictions on new market entrants, and streamline requirements for all types of energy innovation.
 - Reject regulations that constrain choice and replace consumer preferences with politically preferred technology.