



April 26, 2022

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Schumer:

Two years ago this month, the American economy had just shed 20.5 million jobs and the unemployment rate hit a record 14.7%. Congress boldly responded with a level of federal investment to address the devastating impact of the crisis. Today, nearly all of those jobs have been recovered and the unemployment rate has returned to 3.6%.

Given how far we have come to lift millions of hardworking families out of economic despair, we find it incomprehensible to hear some policymakers proposing to slam the brakes on our economic recovery. Many people are still struggling to afford basic necessities and millions more are feeling the squeeze of rising prices. Pulling back on effective, popular investments will not solve the problems we face; in fact, a pivot to austerity measures would only make families poorer, increase unemployment, and cancel long-overdue, necessary, and widely-popular investments in our economy.

[ProsperUS](#), a coalition of labor, grassroots, movement, faith-based, small business, and policy organizations, urges you to reject misplaced demands for austerity and instead seize this moment to invest in climate, care, and good jobs that will help stabilize our economy, build on the successes of the last two years, and secure prosperity for generations to come.

Without further action, the economic gains we've made since we passed the American Rescue Plan will be erased. Sadly, since the expanded and enhanced Child Tax Credit expired, child poverty has returned to levels prior to the pandemic and increased benefits under the Affordable Care Act will expire this fall, driving up health care costs for millions amid a deathly pandemic. An

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increase for long-term care spending in Medicaid has also faded away, leaving sub-poverty wages for the workers we trust to care for our nation's grandparents and people with disabilities, and the cost of insulin remains immorally out of reach for millions of diabetics. Despite strong job growth, the unemployment rate for Black workers is still nearly double that of whites.

And as spring turns to summer, and we face yet another year of record temperatures, with increased wildfires, hurricanes, flooding, and drought, we must ask ourselves: If we don't address the climate emergency now, when will we ever?

We understand that politics can force trade offs in policymaking. It has become clear that any federal investment bill will need to satisfy the demands of a small faction in Congress to reduce the deficit on net. But the plain truth is the deficit is [already falling fast](#) and there are numerous strong proposals to raise revenues by making the wealthy and corporations finally pay their fair share. While rising prices are creating real harm for millions of families, it is increasingly [clear that rising prices](#) are the result of corporate greed and supply chain issues, not public spending. In fact, further investment in deeply neglected sectors of our economy will help bring prices down while giving workers and families a much-needed lifeline.

Starving our economy of long-term investments is pennywise and pound foolish and will lead to slower growth, fewer jobs, less revenue, and larger deficits in the long run. Choosing to veer away from investments that succeeded so incredibly in keeping families and the economy afloat over the last two years could derail our economic recovery altogether. And, as both [polling](#) and [recent demonstrations](#) remind us, people across the country are looking to Congress to build on the successes of the last year by delivering on care, climate, and good jobs.

We urge you to act now to fulfill the promise of desperately needed federal investments – workers, families, and communities across the country are counting on you.

Sincerely,
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ProsperUS members include:

A Better Balance

Action Center on Race and the Economy

AFGE Local 704

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American Economic Liberties Project
Americans for Tax Fairness
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Better Life Lab @ New America
Black Leaders Organizing for Communities (BLOC)
California Asset Building Coalition
California Immigrant Policy Center
Center for American Progress
Center for Economic and Policy Research
Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research
Center for Popular Democracy
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
Children's Defense Fund
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Colorado Fiscal Institute
Communications Workers of America
Congressional Progressive Caucus Center
Daily Kos
Demos
Detroit Action
Detroit Disability Power
Economic Opportunity Institute
Economic Policy Institute
Economic Security Project
Employ America
Every Texan
ExtendPUA.org
Faith in Public Life Action
Family Values @ Work
FPWA
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Good Jobs First
Groundwork Collaborative
Health Care for America Now (HCAN)
Human Impact Partners

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In the Public Interest
Indivisible
Insight Center for Community Economic Development
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Institute for Policy Studies
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Invest In America
Invest in Washington Now
Legal Aid at Work
Liberation in a Generation
Main Street Alliance
Make It Work Nevada
MomsRising
National Employment Law Project
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Women's Law Center
New Jersey Policy Perspective
Oxfam America
PolicyLink
PowerSwitch Action
Public Citizen
Save Us Now Inc
SaverLife
Service Employees International Union
Southern Economic Advancement Project
Southern Poverty Law Center
State Innovation Exchange (SiX)
Strong Economy For All Coalition
Student Basic Needs Coalition
Take on Wall Street
Tax March
Tax March Wisconsin
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries
Voices for Progress
Women's March
Working Families Party
Young Invincibles