

The American People Need Help

Why Are Republicans Turning Their Backs As Families Face So Many Hardships?

Americans are facing tremendous hardship and uncertainty, and the COVID-19 crisis is not even close to ending. We are six months into the crisis, and the U.S. is experiencing a record number of coronavirus cases and unemployment claims.

Very soon, millions of renters will be at risk of eviction.

Workers will lose critical jobless benefits.

Hunger will continue to rise.

Important local and state services are being cut, and people are losing their jobs.

And the health and safety of our students, educators, and staff are being pitted against the need for our children to go back to school.

July 24 – Renter
protections end

July 25 – Last
enhanced
unemployment
checks paid

August-September –
School reopenings
at risk

Americans are afraid and desperate for help. How are they going to keep a roof over their heads, put food on their table, pay the bills, and keep their children safe?

Instead of addressing the hardships Americans are facing, Leader McConnell and Republicans refuse to help.

**Don't they understand what's happening to millions of American families?
Do they care?**

Since the first U.S. case was confirmed on January 20, the Trump Administration has failed our nation on countless levels by not taking this pandemic seriously. In the Senate, the Republican Majority has been following President Trump's lead by showing absolutely no sense of urgency to act. The Heroes Act passed the House over two months ago and has been gathering dust on Leader McConnell's desk.

Senate Democrats have put American families first since Day 1 by offering real help. For months, we have called on Senate Republicans to work with us to extend assistance for families and workers and take action to fund our schools and public services.

You can't wish away a pandemic. Over 140,500 people have lost their lives ... mothers, fathers, grandmas, grandpas, friends.

Families are losing their homes. People are going hungry. Business owners are losing their livelihoods. And parents are feeling great stress about their children's education as the fall is quickly approaching.

It's time for Republicans to stop stalling, step up, and work with Democrats to deliver the help that Americans need and deserve.

The time for urgency is now.

July 24 – Renter Protections End

On July 24, eviction protections on federally assisted properties come to an end. An estimated **30% of Americans missed their July housing payments**, and by the end of the month, property owners will be able to demand those payments and initiate eviction proceedings.

Safe housing is a basic need, especially in a public health crisis when self-isolation and maintaining proper hygiene could be lifesaving.

If Congress lets these protections expire **millions of Americans could face eviction**. People of color and poor families are most vulnerable to losing their homes.

Housing was already unaffordable before the COVID-19 crisis. The average hourly wage needed to afford a one-bedroom rental in the U.S. is \$19.56, more than double the federal minimum wage of \$7.25.

Click [HERE](#) for the hourly wage to afford housing in your state and your state's minimum wage

One in four renters were paying more than half of their income on housing before COVID-19. Now, many of those Americans have lost their jobs, and these housing protections and other federal assistance are their only lifelines.

If Mitch McConnell and Republicans let these housing protections expire, they are abandoning millions of American families.

Senate Democrats demand Leader McConnell and Republicans extend housing protections to ensure Americans have a home during this crisis.

July 25 – Last Enhanced Unemployment Checks Paid

Today, the United States unemployment rate is still higher than any period since the Great Depression. **Nearly half of the U.S. population is jobless, and more than 2 million Americans continue to apply for unemployment insurance every week.** As coronavirus surges across the country, millions of Americans have no clear answer on when they can safely return to their jobs – or whether their jobs will even exist.

Click [HERE](#) for unemployment claims by state

On July 31, the enhanced unemployment insurance of \$600 per week will end. As such, many Americans will receive their last enhanced unemployment benefits during the week ending on July 25. **Unless Congress acts, the 30 million Americans surviving on unemployment will lose 60% of their income overnight.** These individuals will be left with an average of \$370 per week – as much as they'd make on a \$9.25 hourly wage, well under the living wage in most states.

Click [HERE](#) for your state's weekly unemployment benefit

Click [HERE](#) for your state's living wage

Republicans say Americans must get back to work, but there are still millions more job seekers than there are job openings. And for the 92 million adults at risk of complications from coronavirus, Republicans are making them risk their lives for their livelihoods. The Administration will not even confirm that people can turn down work if the employer does not provide safe working conditions.

Experts say letting this \$600 benefit end will deepen the recession, delay the recovery, and cause 5.1 million more job losses over the next year.

Click [HERE](#) to see job losses in your state if the \$600 benefit expires

Allowing these benefits to end would be cruel and unwise.

Senate Democrats call on Leader McConnell to extend enhanced unemployment benefits for as long as this crisis persists.

August-September – Will Schools Be Able to Open?

President Trump is demanding that schools physically reopen in the fall, no matter what. Meanwhile, Mitch McConnell and Republicans have ignored the desperate pleas from school administrators for the funding they need to reopen schools safely and keep students learning. With less than a month before the school year starts, educators are running out of time, and parents and children are stuck in limbo.

Click [HERE](#) for school reopening plans in your state

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says in order to keep students and educators safe, schools should implement new public health practices. These changes don't come cheap. Experts say the total cost to reopen public schools will exceed \$116 billion. **The average school district needs nearly \$2 million to safely reopen this fall.** College leaders estimate the costs to reopen higher education institutions safely are approximately \$74 billion for the fall semester.

Many K-12 schools and colleges are already underfunded and understaffed, due to increased costs and revenue losses from COVID-19. Public schools have laid off more than half a million staff members since April, and states need at least \$230 billion to stabilize their education budgets. Colleges project enrollment could drop 15 percent, while student financial need will increase 20 percent.

Click [HERE](#) for estimated cuts to education in your state

Educators and school staff are understandably afraid to return without necessary safety provisions in place. One in four teachers have a condition that puts them at higher risk of serious illness from coronavirus, including being over age 65.

Senate Democrats have a robust plan to provide schools with the resources they need to reopen safely this fall.

Senate Democrats understand the hardships American families are facing.

People across the country are struggling to survive and wondering how they will make it through the next month, let alone the rest of the year.

**Senate Democrats are putting people first.
Senate Republicans are turning their backs on them.**