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# LOWER COSTS & STRONGER ECONOMY AGENDA

**REP. ANNIE KUSTER**   
NEW HAMPSHIRE'S SECOND DISTRICT

An overview of the **action Congress has taken** to reduce costs and address inflation, followed by a comprehensive roadmap for **what more needs to be done** to provide relief for Granite Staters

## LOWER COSTS & STRONGER ECONOMY AGENDA

Dear Friend,

As your representative in Congress, my mission has always been to support policies and legislation that ensure every Granite Stater has the opportunity to succeed. I am committed to breaking through the gridlock in Washington to grow the economy and deliver results for New Hampshire and the country.

Today, our kids are back in school and Americans are back at work. We have seen historic economic growth thanks to the actions Congressional Democrats have taken to get Americans back to work, strengthen supply chains, grow the economy, and reverse decades of underinvestment in our nation's infrastructure.

Despite this unprecedented economic growth, lingering pandemic challenges and Vladimir Putin's unjust war in Ukraine have resulted in global inflation that is hitting Americans hard.

We have taken critical steps to lower prices in the short-term and reduce inflation over the long-term by investing in our supply chains, reducing tariffs affecting American consumers, releasing millions of barrels of oil from our strategic reserves, and repairing and rebuilding our roads, ports, and bridges. But we can't stop here, and we won't.

I am committed to continuing working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to meet the challenges our country faces head-on by providing relief to Granite Staters and investing in U.S. economic resilience, competitiveness, and innovation. That is exactly what I will work to deliver.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Annie Kuster  
New Hampshire's Second District



# LOWER COSTS & STRONGER ECONOMY AGENDA

*As the Federal Reserve takes independent action through monetary policy to address inflation, Congress can continue to build on the work of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act to enact sustainable fiscal frameworks that help stabilize prices, provide market certainty, and reinforce the long-term trend of low inflation.*

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Reduced out-of-pocket costs for Granite Staters

### THE PLAN TO ADDRESS INFLATION FURTHER

Fill gaps in the workforce

Suspend and reduce tariffs and other trade barriers

Increase the supply of affordable housing

Lower the price of food

Invest in the long-term fiscal strength of our nation and families

## RAPIDLY IMPROVED SUPPLY CHAINS

*As the economy recovered from the COVID-19 public health and economic crisis, pent up demand that outpaced supply of goods and services as well as bottlenecks in our supply chains caused prices to rise across the globe. Congress and the Biden administration have taken a whole of government approach to strengthen and speed up supply chains and lower costs for the American people. As a result of the below actions, American consumers and businesses are starting to see ocean shipping and trucking costs decline.*

- Congress and the administration enacted the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, commonly referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to reverse decades of underinvestment in our infrastructure and modernize our ports, roads, bridges, and railways to strengthen our supply chains and get goods to market faster.
- The bipartisan infrastructure law delivered critical investments in New Hampshire, including:
  - \$1.1 billion in federal highway funds and \$225 million for bridge repairs to keep our critical infrastructure safe.
  - \$66 billion for federal rail investments to help improve the existing Amtrak service in New Hampshire and provide the state with additional federal resources to build the Capitol Corridor Project.
    - The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* provides \$250 million to cover credit risk premiums for Railroad Rehabilitation Improvement Financing (RRIF) loans. This will make it more affordable for states like New Hampshire to use RRIF as a source of funding for passenger rail projects and was inspired by Rep. Kuster's bipartisan *Invest in American Railroads Act*.
- Congresswoman Kuster voted to pass the *CHIPS and Science Act*, comprehensive and bipartisan legislation to lower costs for American families and expand American economic independence. This law represents a powerful investment in ending our dependence on foreign manufacturers and turbocharging American research and development of semiconductors and other innovative technology to ensure our economic and national security for generations to come.
  - **Lowers costs for American consumers:** by making more critical semiconductor components in America, helping end the shortage of chips that have driven up the price of everything from cars to consumer goods.
  - **Ends our dangerous dependence on foreign manufacturers:** bringing critical semiconductor manufacturing back to America instead of overseas where it can be threatened by our adversaries.
  - **Turbocharges American R&D:** powering America's preeminence in both basic research and next-generation technologies and ensuring that the technologies of the future are made here in America.

## BROUGHT MORE PEOPLE INTO THE WORKFORCE

*Our historic economic recovery created millions of good jobs at a rapid pace. In fact, the U.S. now has two job openings for every one unemployed person. This job growth led to increased earnings for many; however, the tight labor market also created challenges in ramping up the supply of goods and services to meet high, post-pandemic demand.*

- Through the American Rescue Plan, Congress and the Biden administration increased access to quality, affordable childcare with \$24 billion in stabilization funding and \$15 billion for childcare and development block grants. This critical funding helped childcare providers stay open during and after the pandemic and helped parents get back to work.
- Congress and the Biden administration enacted the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which includes funding to modernize our nation's infrastructure and improve public transit, creating jobs and helping people get to and from work faster.
  - The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also included funding for workforce development and the Low-No Program to ensure workers are not left behind in the transition to low-and zero-emission transit buses.
- Rep. Kuster worked with her republican colleagues to urge the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) to expand the recruitment of doctors to rural New Hampshire communities to address the physician staffing shortage. As a result of her advocacy, the NBRC will begin offering a J-1 visa waiver program to allow foreign doctors trained in the U.S. to work in the region.
- Congresswoman Kuster's amendment to the 2014 Farm Bill encouraged USDA's Rural Development (USDA-RD) program to grant more resources to the development of rural community colleges like River Valley Community College's (RVCC) Lebanon Academic Center. Kuster supported the Community College System of NH as it applied for and secured a \$1.6 million USDA-RD loan making it possible for them to purchase the Lebanon buildings that are now RVCC. This campus serves as a hub for workforce development and business and industry training, in partnership with local organizations including Dartmouth-Hitchcock and Hypertherm.
- The *CHIPS and Science Act* **strengthens** and **diversifies** the American workforce by:
  - Creating 100,000 strong Davis-Bacon jobs building hi-tech manufacturing facilities here in America.
  - Diversifying and expanding the innovation workforce by broadening the pool of brainpower and talent so that we embrace the full potential of all our communities, diversify our STEM workforce, and advance regional technology hubs to ensure communities across the country can help in American research and development.

## BROUGHT MORE PEOPLE INTO THE WORKFORCE

- **GOOD-PAYING JOBS:** In 2021, there were already 15,915 New Hampshire workers employed in clean energy jobs. The Inflation Reduction Act will expand these opportunities and create 3,600 new jobs annually in the state. Investments include an estimated \$490 million for large-scale clean power generation and storage in New Hampshire between now and 2030. It provides a historic set of tax credits that will create jobs across solar, wind, storage, and other clean energy industries. These credits include bonuses for businesses that pay a prevailing wage so that New Hampshire workers earn a good paycheck as we build the clean energy future in America.
- **SMALL BUSINESSES:** New Hampshire is home to 137,811 small businesses, representing 99% of all businesses in the state, and the Inflation Reduction Act will help them save money. Commercial building owners can receive a tax credit up to \$5 per square foot to support energy efficiency improvements that deliver lower utility bills. Other programs that will benefit small businesses include tax credits covering 30% of the costs of installing low-cost solar power and of purchasing clean trucks and vans for commercial fleets.

## STRENGTHENED AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY FOR LOWER ENERGY COSTS

*As the economy continues to reopen and Americans travel more, energy demand is outpacing supply. Russia's unjust invasion of Ukraine upended the global oil market and exacerbated rising prices at the pump. The actions below address gas and energy prices and secure America's energy independence.*

- Congresswoman Kuster called on the Biden administration to release millions of barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and held Big Oil accountable for their business practices and the fossil fuel industry's role in rising gas prices.
- **STRENGTHENING ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE:**
  - The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is already delivering results for the people of New Hampshire. Through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program alone, New Hampshire should expect to receive more than \$17 million in formula funding over five years to support the expansion of electric vehicle charging in the state. New Hampshire has been allocated \$2 million in 2022, pending the approval of the state's Electric Vehicle Charging Plan.
  - Power outages cost the U.S. economy more than \$70 billion annually. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes a historic investment to upgrade our power infrastructure by making the grid more resilient and building thousands of miles of new transmission lines to deliver clean, affordable electricity. The law also makes a historic investment in clean energy technologies like advanced nuclear, clean hydrogen, and carbon capture, as well as a historic \$3.5 billion investment in weatherization to improve energy efficiency of homes and lower energy costs for impacted households by an average of \$372 per year. To date, approximately \$18 million has been allocated to New Hampshire in 2022 for weatherization and \$3.3 million to help prevent outages and make the power grid more resilient in 2022. Additional grid funding will be made available in the coming months.
  - Infrastructure investments also include a \$2.4 billion federal investment in rehabilitating, retrofitting, and removing dams to improve dam safety, increase hydropower production to reduce carbon emissions, and remove dams to enhance the health of river ecosystems.
    - Rep. Kuster championed these investments through her bipartisan *Twenty-First Century Dams Act*.

## STRENGTHENED AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY FOR LOWER ENERGY COSTS

- The *Inflation Reduction Act* will make it more affordable for Granite State families to purchase energy-efficient appliances when they need to, make repairs around their homes, and save money on their utility bills each month, through:
  - Rebates covering 50-100% of the cost of installing new electric appliances, including super-efficient heat pumps, water heaters, clothes dryers, stoves, and ovens. In New Hampshire, hundreds of thousands of hard-working households are eligible for these rebates.
  - Rebates for households to make repairs and improvements in single-family and multi-family homes to increase energy efficiency.
  - Tax credits covering 30% of the costs to install solar panels and battery storage systems, make home improvements that reduce energy leakage, or upgrade heating and cooling equipment. For solar, uptake projections estimate that tens of thousands of additional New Hampshire households will install rooftop panels as a result.
  - Tax credits covering 30% of the costs of community solar projects—owned by local businesses that sign up families to save on their electric bills—with additional bonus credits of 20% for projects at affordable housing properties and 10% for projects in low-income communities.
  - Grants to help state and local governments adopt the latest building energy codes, which would save the average new homeowner in New Hampshire 15.1% on their utility bills—\$537 annually.
- **LOWERING COSTS:** Congresswoman Kuster called on the Department of Energy and the Biden administration to release supplies from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve to lower costs for New Hampshire households this upcoming winter season. Her request also calls on the Department to explore opportunities to transport domestic natural gas to New England which will help lower home heating and electricity prices.
- **DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING:** Manufacturers employ 67,600 workers in New Hampshire, and the Inflation Reduction Act will help us make the technologies of the future at home—supporting local economies and strengthening supply chains. The Inflation Reduction Act will boost U.S. manufacturing of clean energy and transportation technologies, as well as investments for a new Advanced Industrial Facilities Deployment Program to position America to lead the growing global market for clean steel, aluminum, cement, and more.



## STRENGTHENED AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY FOR LOWER ENERGY COSTS

- **ELECTRIC VEHICLES:** The Inflation Reduction Act will make it easier and cheaper to purchase an electric vehicle, with upfront discounts up to \$7,500 for new EVs and \$4,000 for used EVs, helping middle-class Americans skip the gas pump and save on fuel costs. In New Hampshire, hundreds of thousands of people will be eligible for these discounts. New Hampshire recently submitted a state plan for using funds from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to build out EV charging stations along highways.
- **CLEANER AIR:** The Inflation Reduction Act will significantly reduce pollution, resulting in 100,000 fewer asthma attacks in America in 2030, and position the U.S. to achieve President Biden’s climate goals. Lowering greenhouse gas emissions will not only avoid costly climate impacts from more extreme weather, but also improve local air quality—preventing premature deaths and reducing air pollution. In addition to reducing pollution across the economy, the Act will benefit communities most in need of cleaner air, with in environmental justice block grants, investments for cleaner buses and trucks, and a Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator that will prioritize emissions-reducing projects in disadvantaged communities.
- **RURAL OPPORTUNITIES:** The Inflation Reduction Act supports electric cooperatives, which serve about 80,000 homes, businesses, and other customers in New Hampshire, who will for the first time be eligible for direct-pay clean energy tax credits. And this legislation dedicates investments for rural electric cooperatives to boost resiliency, reliability, and affordability, including through clean energy and energy efficiency upgrades.

## INVESTED IN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE TO LOWER FOOD PRICES

*Global supply chain challenges, Russia's war on Ukraine, lack of competition in several agricultural sectors, and fertilizer prices that have more than doubled over the past year have all contributed to the inflation American families see at the supermarket.*

- The Inflation Reduction Act represents the largest climate and clean energy investment in American history, including provisions pertaining directly to our farms and forests. Specifically, this law will provide:
  - A \$21 billion boost for U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation programs and \$5 billion for forestry programs that are funded through the Farm Bill and are very popular with New Hampshire producers but are typically oversubscribed.
  - \$13 billion for Farm Bill Rural Development and clean energy programs, including the Rural Energy for America Program.
  - \$5 billion to support USDA loan borrowers in financial distress, as well as farmers who have been historically discriminated against in USDA applications. About 22% of all USDA farm loans are delinquent or have been delinquent, and this critical support will help keep farmers, especially those running small family farms, on their land.
- During the appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2023, Rep. Kuster successfully secured a 26% increase in funding for sustainable agriculture programs that provide practical educational resources, training, technical assistance, and farmer-to-farmer learning networks that are critical as producers seek to expand and diversify their businesses while strengthening farm sustainability. These programs also help veterans of the Armed Forces transition into agriculture careers.
- Rep. Kuster helped shepherd bipartisan legislation through the House Agriculture Committee to create a national task force designed to shore up the American food supply chain in the wake of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

## CUT COSTS BY REDUCING TRADE BARRIERS

*This Congress, we have taken actions to cut costs for American families and manufacturers by rolling back Trump-era tariffs and other costly trade policies.*

- Rep. Kuster voted in favor of directing the Biden administration to expand the Sec. 301 tariff exclusions process to lower prices for consumers and support American businesses. As a result, the Biden administration reinstated tariff exclusions for 352 categories of products to lower prices for Americans and ease supply chain disruptions.
- Canadian tourists are vital contributors to the New England economy, spending an average of \$19 billion in the United States every year, including \$500 million across northern New England. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in March 2020 the border was closed to non-essential travel, and Rep. Kuster led a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas urging the safe re-opening of the U.S.-Canadian border.
- Congresswoman Kuster's bill, the *Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act* was signed into law. This legislation paved the way for the expansion of preclearance facilities which streamline travel and commerce operations between the U.S. and Canada, expanding trade opportunities for Granite State businesses and helping to strengthen our national security.

## EXPANDED ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

*High-speed internet is necessary for Americans to do their jobs, participate in school, access health care, and stay connected. Yet nearly 15% of Granite Staters do not have an internet subscription, limiting their ability to fully participate in a 21st century economy.*

- Under the *American Rescue Plan Act*, New Hampshire received \$122 million to connect more than 24,000 homes and businesses to affordable, high-speed internet through the Capital Projects Fund. This program provides resources for reliable, affordable broadband infrastructure and other digital connectivity technology projects.
- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$65 billion to provide affordable, high-speed internet to every American. In New Hampshire, as many as 163,000 households are eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program, which cuts internet bills by up to \$30 per month, or \$75 for households on Tribal lands, and provides a one-time \$100 discount off a connected device.

## REDUCED OUT OF POCKET COSTS FOR GRANITE STATERS

*The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 will lower health care costs for millions of Americans and put money back in the pockets of American families and seniors. This law caps prescription drug costs for hundreds of thousands of New Hampshire Medicare beneficiaries, reduces health insurance premiums for tens of thousands of Granite Staters by about \$720 per year on average while expanding coverage to about 11,000 Granite Staters, and caps the insulin copayments for thousands of New Hampshire Medicare beneficiaries.*

### CUTTING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Americans pay two to three times what citizens of other countries pay for prescription drugs. The Inflation Reduction Act finally takes on this problem by allowing Medicare to negotiate prices for high-cost drugs. It also creates new protections for seniors and people with disabilities who have Medicare coverage with new protections against unaffordable prescription drug bills.

- **Protecting Hundreds of Thousands of Granite State Seniors from Catastrophic Drug Costs by Capping Medicare Beneficiary Out-of-Pocket Costs in Part D at \$2,000.** Millions of people in Medicare struggle to afford their prescriptions, and currently, Medicare beneficiaries with conditions such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, and lung disease can face thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket prescription drug costs. The Inflation Reduction Act establishes a \$2,000 out-of-pocket cap taking effect in 2025. Each year, that will benefit about 6,900 New Hampshire Medicare beneficiaries who would otherwise have out-of-pocket costs above the cap, according to estimates from the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF). For the first time, all 213,000 New Hampshire Medicare Part D beneficiaries will have the peace of mind of knowing their pharmacy costs are capped.
- **Saving Billions of Dollars for Seniors and People with Disabilities and the Federal Government by Allowing Medicare to Negotiate Prices for High-Cost Drugs.** By bringing down the cost of these drugs, the legislation will save billions of dollars for both Medicare beneficiaries, who will see reduced out-of-pocket costs, and the federal government.
- **Addressing Rapid Prescription Drug Price Growth in Medicare.** If a drug's price increases faster than inflation, that manufacturer will now be required to pay Medicare a rebate. This will achieve billions more in savings for the federal government and will further reduce out-of-pocket costs for Medicare beneficiaries.
- **Saving New Hampshire Medicare Beneficiaries Money by Capping Insulin Copays at \$35 per Month.** Starting in 2023, insulin will not cost more than \$35 for a month's supply for the 12,000 Medicare beneficiaries who depend on this life-saving medication in New Hampshire. With this cap on insulin, Granite Staters will no longer have to choose between their prescription drugs and food on the table.

## REDUCED OUT OF POCKET COSTS FOR GRANITE STATERS

- **Providing Extra Help Paying for Drugs for New Hampshire Medicare Beneficiaries with Low Incomes.** The Act expands eligibility for full Part D Low-Income Subsidies – known as Extra Help – in 2024 to low-income beneficiaries with incomes up to 150% of poverty and modest assets. About 2,000 New Hampshire Medicare beneficiaries received partial Extra Help in 2020 and could be helped by the expansion of income eligibility for full Extra Help.
- **Saving Tens of Thousands of New Hampshire Medicare Beneficiaries Money by Ending Cost-Sharing for Vaccines in Part D.** While Medicare Part B covers vaccines such as the flu vaccine at no cost-sharing, patients receiving vaccines covered under Medicare Part D, such as the vaccine for shingles, must pay for a portion of the cost out of pocket. That is why I am proud the Inflation Reduction Act included my legislation that requires \$0 cost-sharing for vaccines for Medicare Part D beneficiaries. Some 22,000 New Hampshire Medicare beneficiaries received a Part D vaccine in 2020, and that number is likely to rise as vaccines become more affordable.

### ALLOWING THOUSANDS OF GRANITE STATERS TO ACCESS HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

About 11,000 more folks in New Hampshire will have health insurance next year compared to without the Inflation Reduction Act. These coverage expansions will improve health outcomes and financial security: Health insurance reduces medical debt and improves credit scores and access to credit, research finds – making it possible for people to buy a home or take out an auto loan that in turn allows them to get or keep a job.

## CONGRESS AND THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION CAN DO MORE TO ADDRESS INFLATION

*Despite the progress we have made, we know that more action is needed to address inflation and lower costs for the American people. Listed below are concrete ideas to ease short- and long-term inflationary pressures and provide relief for New Hampshire workers, families, and businesses. I am ready to work with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to deliver durable solutions to help lower inflation.*

### THE PLAN TO ADDRESS INFLATION FURTHER

Fill gaps in the workforce

Suspend and reduce tariffs and other trade barriers

Increase the supply of affordable housing

Lower the price of food

Invest in the long-term fiscal strength of our nation and families

## FILL GAPS IN THE WORKFORCE

*Updating American workforce development programs and immigration policies and increasing the availability and affordability of childcare can help address labor market shortages. In New Hampshire, we are currently experiencing historically low unemployment, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in one in ten women quitting a job. The policies below will better prepare people entering the workforce, upskill those in their careers, retrain dislocated workers, and increase the labor supply.*

- Fund and modernize innovative approaches to workforce development and high-quality job training to get more workers into in-demand fields.
- Enact Rep. Kuster's H.R. 6778, the *Workforce Development Investment Act* to develop employer workforce and job training opportunities for students.
- Enact the House-passed H.R. 7309, the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* to expand and improve America's workforce development system.
- Invest in workforce development and career-oriented education to improve pipelines for in-demand industries, including housing, clean energy and utilities, and transportation and trucking.
- Enact the House-passed H.R. 447, the *National Apprenticeship Act* to expand opportunities and access to apprenticeships.
- Pass H.R. 2784, the *STEM Restoring Employment Skills through Targeted Assistance, Re-entry, and Training (RESTART) Act*, to allow mid-career workers to return or transition into the STEM workforce.
- Enact policies to value skills-based careers over degrees by reorienting postsecondary education to prepare workers with career-ready skills, investing in community colleges, increasing pathways to two-year degrees, improving credentialing, and promoting lifelong learning.
- Enact H.R. 3974, the *Trade Adjustment Assistance Modernization Act* to expand and reauthorize the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program.
- Improve credential attainment with reforms and additional funding for postsecondary occupational training for disadvantaged students and the creation of a permanent version of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grants.



## FILL GAPS IN THE WORKFORCE

- Enact policies to support affordability, transparency, and accountability in higher education and credentialing programs, including by passing H.R. 2030, the *College Transparency Act*, which would provide prospective students with more accurate data on completion and post-college outcomes.
- Enact immigration policies to increase the U.S. workforce:
  - Enact provisions in the House-passed bipartisan innovation bill, the *America COMPETES Act*, to establish a new start-up and entrepreneur visa program, bolster apprenticeships, exempt immigrants with PhDs in a STEM field from green card limits, invest \$250M in the future STEM workforce, and promote workforce development through data collection and other investments.
  - Enact the House-passed bills, H.R. 1603, the *Farm Workforce Modernization Act* and H.R. 6, the *American Dream and Promise Act*, to increase legal immigration and bolster the U.S. economy and workforce.
  - Enact provisions in the House-passed *Build Back Better Act* to increase agricultural worker visas, recapture unused immigrant visa numbers, increase the care economy workforce, expand apprenticeship programs, and increase funding for workforce development programs.
  - Increase high-skilled worker and student/academic visas (H1As and J-1s) and family visas, and reform outdated country caps.
  - Pass H.R. 3541, the *Conrad 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act* to reauthorize the Conrad 30 Program.
  - Pass H.R. 7374, the *Jumpstart Act* to recapture unused visas.
  - Continue to push for comprehensive immigration reforms.
- Address workforce needs in critical supply chain industries:
  - Pass H.R. 7348, the *Strengthening Supply Chains Through Truck Driver Incentives Act*, to establish refundable income tax credits for qualified commercial truck drivers.
- - Pass H.R. 2187, the *Truck Parking Safety Improvement Act*, to provide additional assistance for safe and accessible trucker parking.

## FILL GAPS IN THE WORKFORCE

- Support child care workforce and invest in early education:
  - Support the child care workforce by increasing resources in the country's existing child care assistance program, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, would allow parents and families in New Hampshire to better access reliable and effective child care options.
  - Enact provisions from the House-passed *Build Back Better Act*, including increased wages for Head Start staff, improved compensation for the early childhood workforce, and expanded access to high-quality preschool.
- Increase access to mental health and addiction treatment and support for recovery-friendly workplaces:
  - Invest in evidence-based employer programs that support employees struggling with mental health and/or substance use disorder.
  - Enact the *Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Wellbeing Act* to address the national mental health crisis and support substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

## SUSPEND AND REDUCE TARIFFS AND OTHER TRADE BARRIERS

*Updating American workforce development programs and immigration policies and increasing the availability and affordability of childcare can help address labor market shortages. In New Hampshire, we are currently experiencing historically low unemployment, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in one in ten women quitting a job. The policies below will better prepare people entering the workforce, upskill those in their careers, retrain dislocated workers, and increase the labor supply.*

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## INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Address materials shortages with strong public-private sector partnerships to address supply chain disruptions.
- Prioritize Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for projects that include planning, permitting, and zoning reforms for more inclusive and streamlined development.
- Prioritize Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for projects that coordinate housing and infrastructure planning and development, including transit-oriented development programs.
- Address prohibitive zoning and permitting policies, including by passing H.R. 3198, the *YIMBY Act* and H.R. 2483, the *Build More Housing Near Transit Act*.
- Remove barriers to affordable housing development, including by enacting and building on the House-passed Unlocking Possibilities Program to provide grants for states and localities and address permitting barriers for manufactured housing communities.
- Pass H.R. 2573, the *Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act* to expand and strengthen the low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC), which would create more affordable housing units and better serve at-risk communities.
- Finalize the administration's "income averaging" rule to support the expansion of affordable housing for a wider range of incomes.
- Increase homeownership opportunities by passing H.R. 2863, the *First Time Homebuyer Act*, which would provide a credit of up to \$15,000 based on income and median area purchase price.

## LOWER THE PRICE OF FOOD

- **Advance policies to spur more competition and fairer prices for Granite State farmers in food processing and distribution.** I'm proud to champion legislation like the *Strengthening Local Processing Act*, to support and help grow smaller meat packing operations that can be more responsive to supply chain hiccups than the large conglomerates. I also have cosponsored a bill that would establish Food Supply Chain Resiliency Centers around the country that would provide technical assistance to small and medium-sized producers with supply chain issues.
- **Extend cost-saving American Rescue Plan nutrition assistance and flexibility, including enhanced Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Plan (SNAP) benefits that expire at the end of September.** Much of the flexibility granted to nutrition programs during the COVID-19 pandemic are simply common sense and should remain long after the pandemic ends. I've introduced legislation to make it easier for families struggling with food insecurity to apply for SNAP benefits without having to make multiple, time-consuming trips to a government office.
- **Enact legislation to extend school and summer meal flexibilities to ensure no child goes hungry.** No child can learn when they are hungry. To ensure the next generations of Americans grow up healthy and well-educated, we need to invest in their school meals just as we do their textbooks. I helped lead the charge to extend COVID-era flexibility for free school meals and am proud to support legislation that would ensure universal free access to school meals for all students.

## INVEST IN THE LONG-TERM FISCAL STRENGTH OF OUR NATION AND FAMILIES

*I firmly believe that the government governs best when it does so within its means. We must make fiscally responsible decisions so we can continue to afford critical investments in our future. By cutting wasteful spending, streamlining duplicative programs, and finding inefficiencies throughout government, we can reduce the deficit in a balanced way that protects priorities such as education, research, and health care.*

*I am committed to working with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to curtail excessive spending, close tax loopholes, and end wasteful subsidies. I will continue to prioritize policies like the Inflation Reduction Act that reduce the deficit and continue to move our country forward.*

- Enact legislation to substantially reduce the deficit by reforming our tax code and increasing IRS tax enforcement to go after tax cheats.
- Extend deadlines for states to spend American Rescue Plan funding over a longer period of time so states can enact more sustainable spending plans.
- Enact policies and increase incentives to promote personal savings and economic-security for workers and retirees.
- Prepare to phase out emergency stimulus programs as our economy recovers from the public health emergency.
- Implement new and update existing automatic stabilizers to better target future relief packages and ensure relief and stimulus spending starts and ends as needed, by passing legislation such as H.R. 7821, the Worker Relief and Security Act.
- Invest in place-based economic policies to spread-out demand and lower concentrated price pressures in hot markets by enacting the pilot Recompete grant program.
- Fully fund programs for pandemic preparedness and response.
- Pursue ambitious trade agreements with countries to lower prices for American consumers, expand market access for U.S. products, and create more resilient supply chains.
- Establish a commission and issue a report on economic preparedness and recovery to review our response to the 2009 and 2020 recessions and suggest preventive measures and fiscal policy responses for the future.

## CONCLUSION

*As the Federal Reserve takes independent action through monetary policy to address inflation, Congress can continue to build on the work of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act to enact sustainable fiscal frameworks that help stabilize prices, provide market certainty, and reinforce the long-term trend of low inflation.*