



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

The monumental American Rescue Plan contains dozens of provisions designed to directly benefit workers and their families. These include:

Pension protection:

The bill contains the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021, a longtime priority of our union, which finally secures the multi-employer pensions that 10 million union members, widows, and retirees, including 120,000 from the USW, are counting on for their retirements.

Public health:

The package will directly confront the Covid-19 pandemic, making our country safer and healthier. This includes facilitating further testing, contact tracing and personal protective equipment, as well as vaccine procurement, supplies and distribution and more.

Workplace safety:

The new law helps keep workers safe by giving OSHA the funds it needs for enforcement in high-risk sectors, including those where USW members work. This has been a USW priority since the pandemic began.

Direct payments:

The bill provides for direct payments of up to \$1,400 so families can buy what they need most right now – whether that’s food, housing, child care, car repairs or other emergency expenses – and help keep our economy moving by supporting local businesses that are struggling.

Tax cuts for families:

The plan cuts taxes for low- and middle-income households so that they have more to spend on needed goods, helping keep businesses afloat. Families with children will benefit even more, helping to ensure a brighter future for all.

Unemployment benefits:

The new law enhances unemployment benefits through September, providing an additional \$300 per week on top of all state unemployment benefits. It also waives taxes on a portion of unemployment income for low-and middle-income workers. This will directly benefit thousands of USW members who were laid off or lost their jobs during the pandemic.

Full COBRA subsidies:

The new law helps keep workers safe by giving OSHA the funds it needs for enforcement in high-risk sectors, including those where USW members work. This has been a USW priority since the pandemic began.

Education:

The bill will help schools follow the CDC’s recommended steps, ensuring students, educators, and employees, including USW members, can return to the classroom safely.

Relief for State & Local Governments:

The plan gives direct aid to state, local, tribal and territorial governments to help deal with the impacts of the pandemic. This may include local economic recovery, like helping small businesses, nonprofits and hard-hit industries like tourism, travel, and hospitality, as well as supporting infrastructure investment and premium pay for essential workers.

Veterans:

The new law recognizes the outsized impact the pandemic had on veterans, providing resources for unemployment services, as well as funding for health care, mental health and veterans’ safety.

And much more: Please see <http://usw.to/arp> for a complete list.