

AUGUST 2018

PLAYBOOK



COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND  
THE WORKFORCE

# TABLE *OF* CONTENTS

Page 3	Table of Contents
Page 4	Subcommittee Updates
Page 6	PROSPER Act
Page 8	Career and Technical Education
Page 10	Close to Home
Page 12	Association Health Plans
Page 14	Tax Reform
Page 16	Graphics and Homework
Page 17	Contact Information



“ There are plenty of in-demand jobs available, but individuals with the skills and qualifications needed to fill them are scarce.”



“ By 2017 our effort had grown to 32 sites serving approximately 800 children with over 15,000 meals.”



“ Over 47,000 students in 183 elementary and secondary schools depend on this government agency to provide them with educational opportunities in a safe and healthful learning environment.”

CHAIRMAN ROKITA COUNSEL

# SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

## *Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education*

- ✓ Examined the Summer Food Service Program.
- ✓ Explored welfare to work with child care.
- ✓ Examined the government’s management of Native American schools.

## *Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development*

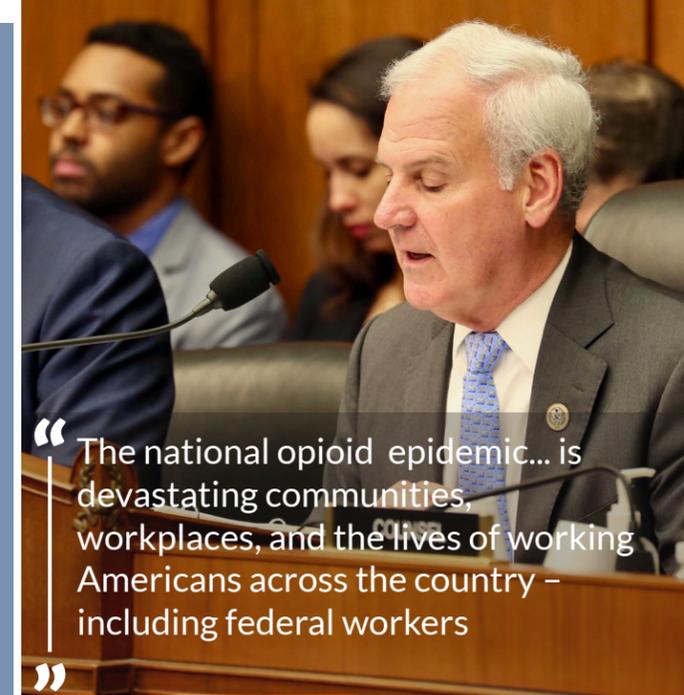
- ✓ Strengthened access to and accountability in the welfare to work program.
- ✓ Worked to close the skills gap by examining private sector solutions for the workforce.
- ✓ Explored occupational licensing to reduce barriers to economic mobility and growth.

## *Subcommittee on Workforce Protections*

- ✓ Considered how regulatory reform is helping to unleash economic opportunity for workers and employers.
- ✓ Examined the scourge of opioids and the implications for the Federal Employees’ Compensation Act.
- ✓ Explored a more effective and collaborative OSHA.
- ✓ Reviewed the polices and priorities of the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

## *Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions*

- ✓ Reviewed current developments, trends, and statistics in the U.S. labor market and the American workforce.
- ✓ Enhanced retirement security by examining proposals to simplify and modernize the administration of retirement plans.
- ✓ Examined the need to modernize federal labor law.
- ✓ Explored affordable health care options with the Department of Labor’s proposed rule on Association Health Plans.
- ✓ Reviewed the impact of the scourge of opioids in the workplace.



“ The national opioid epidemic... is devastating communities, workplaces, and the lives of working Americans across the country – including federal workers”



“ Taxpayers and federal workers deserve a program that is cost effective, free from fraud, and provides safe and medically necessary treatment for workers.”



“ For the very first time in BLS reporting history, the number of job seekers – 6.3 million Americans – has been eclipsed by the number of available jobs – 6.7 million job openings nationwide.”

# SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES





# CTE

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

## Americans face a job market that is vastly different from the one that existed a generation ago.

Advances in technology and the growth of a global economy have dramatically changed the kinds of jobs that are available, making high-quality education and skills development vital to competing in today's workplaces.

Since 1984, the *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act* has provided federal support to state and local career and technical education, or CTE, programs. These programs offer students the knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience necessary to compete for jobs in a broad range of fields, such as health care and technology.

Because federal law has not been updated in more than a decade, it no longer reflects the realities and challenges facing students and workers. Current policies restrict the ability of state leaders to invest federal resources in efforts that prioritize economic growth and local needs. This occurs at a time when critical industries have vacant jobs but not enough qualified workers to fill them.

## *FAST FACTS:* What does CTE do?

- ✓ **Empowers state and local community leaders** by simplifying the application process for receiving federal funds and providing more flexibility to use federal resources to respond to changing education and economic needs.
- ✓ **Improves alignment with in-demand jobs** by supporting innovative learning opportunities, building better community partnerships, and encouraging stronger engagement with employers.
- ✓ **Increases transparency and accountability** by streamlining performance measures to ensure CTE programs deliver results, empowering parents, students, and stakeholders with a voice in setting performance goals and evaluating the effectiveness of local programs.
- ✓ **Ensures a limited federal role** by reining in the Secretary of Education's authority.

✓ PASSED THE HOUSE UNANIMOUSLY  
✓ PASSED THE SENATE UNANIMOUSLY  
AWAITING PRESIDENT TRUMP'S SIGNATURE

### **H.R. 5889, Recognizing Early Childhood Trauma:**

- ✓ Educates professionals on ways to identify and respond to children suffering from trauma.
- ✓ Promotes safety of children to lessen long-term negative impacts.

### **H.R. 5890, Assisting States' Implementation of Plans of Safe Care Act:**

- ✓ Provides states with the support they need to execute safe care assurance plans.
- ✓ Increases the states' understanding of the law.

### **H.R. 5891, Improving the Federal Response to Families Impacted by Substance Use Disorder Act:**

- ✓ Develops a strategy to coordinate federal agency responses to the opioid epidemic.
- ✓ Utilizes ongoing activities to better support families.

**H.R. 5892, Creates an Advisory Committee to advise the Secretary of Labor on actions the Department can take to address the impact of opioid abuse on the workplace.**

 **PASSED THE HOUSE**



# CLOSE TO HOME

*life beyond opioids: stability, health, and healing*

THE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE COMMITTEE OFFERED FOUR BILLS THAT WORKED TOWARDS ENDING THE OPIOID SCOURGE TAKING PLACE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THESE BILLS WERE PACKAGED INTO H.R. 6.

*The Department of Labor's final rule, issued June 19, 2018, builds on House Republican efforts to provide health care options to millions of small business employees across America.*

**BACKGROUND:** Employers play an important role in providing America's working families with access to affordable health care coverage. Unfortunately, small businesses have been hit especially hard by flawed mandates, soaring costs, and limited choices under Obamacare. According to the National Federation of Independent Business, the number one challenge facing small businesses in 2016 was the cost of health care. Since 2008, the share of small businesses with fewer than 10 employees offering health coverage has dropped 36 percent — leaving workers and their families with fewer health care options.

Meanwhile, Obamacare has destroyed small businesses and resulted in fewer jobs and lower wages. Workers and their families deserve better. That's why Congress has taken steps to repeal the failed health care law and transition to a patient-centered system. As part of this step-by-step process, Republicans have advanced positive reforms that make it easier for small businesses to offer health care coverage to their employees.

Due to their size and economies of scale, large businesses and labor organizations have the ability to negotiate on behalf of employees for high-quality health care at more affordable costs. By offering a qualified group health plan under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), these large employers and labor organizations are also exempt from myriad state rules and regulations on health insurance. Small businesses, however, do not have the same bargaining power as larger businesses and are unable to band together to increase their bargaining power in the health insurance marketplace. By allowing small businesses to join together through association health plans (AHPs), small businesses can have greater ability to negotiate for lower health care costs for their employees.

**On March 22, 2017, the House passed the SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT: Introduced by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX), chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, and Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), chairman of the Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, the Small Business Health Fairness Act (H.R. 1101) would empower small businesses to band together and offer coverage through AHPs to purchase quality health care coverage at a lower cost for their employees.**

**Consistent with the new DOL rule, H.R. 1101:**

- ✓ **Increases small businesses' bargaining power** with insurance providers and puts them on a more level playing field with larger companies and unions.
- ✓ **Expands affordable coverage for working families** who want to purchase health insurance through their employer.
- ✓ **Lowers administrative costs** for small businesses who face limited resources and want to provide health insurance to their employees.



# AHPs

ASSOCIATION  
HEALTH  
PLANS

# TAX REFORM

## IT'S WORKING!

Americans are better off now than they were two years ago. In fact, they're better off now than they were six months ago.

Thanks to tax reform, our economy is booming and the job market is on the rise. Americans are getting the raises they deserve, getting more take-home pay and opportunities to thrive with the growing economy.

## NUMBERS DON'T LIE. HERE ARE THE FACTS:

**\$2,059**—Average tax cut for a typical family of four.

**1.3 million**—Jobs created since the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* became law.

**16**—Regulations rolled back through the Congressional Review Act process. That's the most in history.

**6.6 million**—Job openings as of May 2018, meaning more jobs than seekers.

**102**—Number of utility companies that have lowered prices in 48 states as a result of tax reform.

**5.7 million**—New hires in May 2018, the highest level in 17 years and the second highest on record.

**642**—Companies that gave out pay raises, bonuses, or more benefits to workers, and counting.

**65%**—Americans who say now is a good time to find a quality job.

**4 million**—Americans who received bonuses, increased wages, or expanded benefits because of tax reform.

**4.6%**—Hispanic-Latino unemployment rate, the lowest on record (June 2018).

**90%**—Americans who are receiving bigger paychecks.

**5.9%**—Black unemployment rate, the lowest on record (May 2018).

**\$211.2 billion**—Record high level of U.S. exports of goods and services.

**95.1%**—Manufacturers that feel positive about their own company's outlook.

**3.7 million**—Jobs created since November 2016.

# GRAPHICS for YOU!

## ISSUE UPDATE: ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS

### EMPOWERING SMALL BUSINESSES & WORKERS

- ✓ Increase small businesses' bargaining power with insurance providers and put them on a more level playing field with larger companies and unions.
- ✓ Expand affordable coverage for working families who want to purchase health insurance through their employer.
- ✓ Lower administrative costs for small businesses who face limited resources and want to provide health insurance to their employees.



### HOW THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IMPACTS FAMILIES:

Last year, 61.8 million patients received opioid prescriptions. That's 19 percent of the population.

In 2015 122,000 adolescents (12-17 year olds) had some type of addiction to prescription pain relievers.

Between 2009 and 2014, the percent of children nationwide with parental alcohol or drug use as a factor in out-of-home placement rose from 29.4 to 35.1 percent.

Opioid abuse in the home has been linked, by experts, to the rise in suicides among children and teenagers.

### Since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Passed

- ✓ over 6 million workers have received bonuses
- ✓ small businesses are growing
- ✓ 90% of Americans have seen bigger paychecks



### THE PROSPER ACT PUTS

# \$14.5 BILLION

## BACK IN STUDENTS' POCKETS

BY ELIMINATING LOAN ORIGINATION FEES

# [HOMEWORK]

- ✓ Hold a roundtable discussion with your local Workforce Development Board.
- ✓ Encourage business leaders in your district to join the Workforce Development Board.
- ✓ Visit a career and technical college or university.
- ✓ Place op-eds in your local publications, and post online on what we're doing for students, workers and families.

# ANY QUESTIONS?

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