

Bipartisan Majorities of Voters Support Investing in the Care Economy

More than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of Americans are united in their support of the care economy. We cannot recover from this historic pandemic and fix long-broken systems without investing in a strong care infrastructure that includes childcare, paid family and medical leave and long-term care. COVID-19 has demonstrated how essential caregivers are to enabling all workers to do our jobs.



In this highly polarized time, Americans are <u>unified</u> across party lines and demographics in believing that care economy policies to help recover from the pandemic are "very important." Voters want a coordinated and comprehensive plan that puts families first so our businesses, economy, and communities can thrive.

- 74% of <u>battleground state voters</u> in 2020 endorsed a package to build a more resilient care system that was a critical part of the Build Back Better platform that Biden ran on—including 57% of Trump voters.
- When it comes to investing in modern care infrastructure like child care, long term care, and paid leave, <u>72% of voters</u> said it was important and 56% described it as very important.

Voters' support for the care economy also played a key role in <u>President Biden</u>'s victory.

- A <u>majority of Biden voters</u> (53%) said they were thinking about care economy issues when they voted--not just about President Trump.
- <u>Pre-election polling</u> found Biden's paid leave plan was the most persuasive message for undecided women.
 - <u>60% of those</u> who saw their caregiving demands increase as a result of COVID-19 voted for Biden compared to 39% who voted for Trump.



The polling is clear: bipartisan majorities of Americans support investing in the care economy.

- More than <u>90% of voters</u> want paid family and medical leave included in a comprehensive plan to help families.
- 73% of likely voters support President Biden's proposal of \$400 billion to increase access and improve home based care, including 72% of Independents, 55% of Republicans and 88% of Democrats.
- <u>67% of Republicans and 87% of Democrats</u> in the 67 most competitive congressional districts would support legislation ensuring that people have access to up to 12 weeks of paid leave.
- Across race and ethnicity, <u>69% of women</u> surveyed support paid sick leave and time away from work to have a child, recover from serious health conditions or care for a family member.
- More than <u>three in four</u> Americans across party lines support including the care economy in a new infrastructure bill, including:
 - 83% supporting affordable child care options with 95% of Democrats, 76% of Independents and 71% of Republicans.
 - 78% supporting expanding family and medical leave with 93% of Democrats, 73% of Independents and 62% of Republicans.
 - <u>76%</u> support raising wages and benefits for essential home care workers, including 58% of Republicans, 74% of Independents and 93% of Democrats.

<u>Three in four voters</u> say elected leaders should make child care and early learning a priority in 2021.

- By a margin of about <u>five to one</u>, voters would be more likely to vote for their member of Congress if he or she supported early learning and care policies, with very little risk of losing voters.
- A <u>solid majority of Republicans</u> say their member of Congress should work with Joe Biden on these issues.
- More than 3 in 4 young voters (age 18-34) generally support increased congressional funding for child care—the highest level of support for any age group.

Two-thirds of small business owners support national paid leave, including 80% of Democratic, 55% of Republican, and 52% of Independent owners.