

Women's Community Letter in Support of Raising \$4 Trillion in Revenues

August 3rd, 2021

Dear Members of Congress:

Our nation is at a critical juncture. Women of color, and women more generally, have borne the brunt of the COVID-19 crisis and continue to lag behind as the economy slowly, and unevenly, recovers. Now more than ever, women need and deserve public investments to address the long-term impacts of the pandemic and repair the longstanding, underlying flaws in the economy that the pandemic revealed and exacerbated. In this moment, it is vital not to perpetuate the vicious cycle of underinvestment and expecting women to bear the brunt of longstanding policy failures. If we do not invest at the scope of need, we will squander the opportunity to rebuild a stronger and more equitable economy where prosperity is broadly shared, rather than hoarded by the privileged few. As you finalize the infrastructure package and the budget resolution, we write on behalf of the women's community to urge you to ensure that they comprise robust investments in the priorities that are central to the health and economic security of women, and that these investments are supported by fair and progressive tax policies.

We urge you to raise at least \$4 trillion in revenues through progressive tax policies in the infrastructure package and budget resolution. These policies will support long overdue investments that advance racial and gender equity, increase the economic security of women, people of color, and families, and foster economic growth and shared prosperity. They would also make the tax system fairer and more equitable, a much-needed course correction.

There are many options to meet our revenue goals that are consistent with President Biden's commitment not to raise taxes on households earning \$400,000 a year or less. During the pandemic, the wealthy and large corporations have flourished, with the total wealth of U.S. billionaires growing by \$1.3 trillion during the first 11 months of the pandemic, while millions of women and families struggled to meet basic needs. Research has confirmed that cutting taxes for the rich and corporations does not produce economic benefits for the rest of us, while depriving our country of needed revenues to invest in shared prosperity. And data shows that tax evasion by high earners constitutes a significant portion of the gap between taxes that are owed but not paid every year.

We urge you to:

- Roll back the cuts to the top income tax rates and corporate tax rate in the 2017 tax law;
- Eliminate tax breaks that encourage corporations to shift jobs and profits offshore;
- Raise the capital gains tax rate and eliminate the stepped-up basis for families making over \$1 million in income annually; and
- Substantially increase IRS funding to strengthen tax enforcement against corporations and high-income taxpayers, which would help raise much-needed revenues by collecting taxes owed by the wealthy, and prevent an unfair two-tier tax collection system that disproportionately benefits those with the most resources.

Our tax system allows us to invest in our shared national priorities, and it is time to make sure that the rich and corporations are paying their fair share of those investments. Women have lost a generation of job gains, and women of color continue to experience disproportionate rates of material hardship, during the pandemic. Without robust public investments, millions of women of color, and women more generally, will experience detrimental impacts from the pandemic for the rest of their lives – and these disparities will be perpetuated in future crises. We urge the Congress to create an equitable recovery by centering the needs of women, investing at the scale of need, and supporting these investments with fair and progressive tax policies. Women and their families are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Arjuna Capital

Caring Across Generations

Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network

Center for American Progress

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)

Closing the Women's Wealth Gap

Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)

Equal Rights Advocates

Futures Without Violence

MomsRising

National Domestic Workers Alliance

National Organization for Women

National Partnership for Women & Families

National Women's Law Center

Oxfam America

Pacific Community Ventures

Prosperity Now

Sage Financial Solutions, Inc.

The New York Women's Foundation

Time's Up Now

United State of Women

Vote Run Lead

Women's Funding Network

Women's Law Project (Pennsylvania)

Zero to Three