

House Passes *Build Back Better Act*; Senate Action Still Needed

The *Build Back Better Act* (BBB) passed in the House of Representatives on November 19. This landmark piece of human infrastructure legislation still needs to pass the Senate before being signed into law.

If the Senate passes the same version that cleared the House (H.R. 5376), the BBB would:

- Make childcare more affordable by capping child-care costs to 7% of a family's income;
- Provide universal preschool for three and 4-year-olds;
- Extend the Biden child tax credit program, which has lifted over 3 million children out of poverty and cut poverty in America by 25%;
- Provide hearing benefits to Medicare recipients;
- Provide paid family leave to every eligible American;
- Incorporate many provisions of the *PRO Act* so that corporations that engage in illegal union-busting are held accountable;
- Allocate \$6 billion for the electrification of the new postal delivery vehicles.

The text of the *Build Back Better Act* still needs to clear the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) hopes to schedule the BBB for a Senate vote before Christmas.

APWU firmly supports the pro-worker provisions currently contained in the bill, and appreciates those members of Congress fighting to ensure this critical legislation retains its pro-worker provisions and is signed into law. We urge APWU members to contact their Senators via our legislative hotline (844-402-1001) to support the rapid passage of the *Build Back Better Act*.

President Biden Signs *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*

On November 15, President Biden signed H.R. 3684, the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, into law. This bipartisan, \$1.2 trillion package will make long-overdue investments in our nation's infrastructure, providing the funding to finally repair our decaying roads, bridges, and public transportation systems. Remarkably, the law represents the most significant investment in bridges since the creation of the interstate highway system. The bill also provides funding to expand broadband access, strengthen our water and energy systems, and ease the supply shortages by ending port and airline maintenance backlogs. While the infrastructure bill is indeed a step forward, the *Build Back Better Act* is needed to help solve the ever-escalating climate crisis, staggering wealth inequality, and an ongoing pandemic.

President Biden Names Two Nominees to Board of Governors

On November 19, President Joe Biden announced two new nominees to the Postal Service Board of Governors to replace outgoing governors. The President nominated Dan Tangherlini, who served as Administrator of the General Services Administration in the Obama Administration and has worked in various roles in the District of Columbia government. He also nominated Derek Kan, who worked in the Trump Administration's Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Transportation.

Their appointments are to fill the spots on the Board being vacated by Governors Ron Bloom and John Barger. Bloom's term expired last year; he was finishing a holdover year which ends on December 8. Barger's term expires the same day, but he will stay on the Board until a replacement is confirmed by the Senate.

The APWU looks forward to meeting with the nominees, sharing our views on matters affecting postal workers and learning where they stand on the future of the public United States Postal Service.

Members Encouraged to Support Passage of Voting Rights Bills

The pressure on President Biden to pass a voting rights bill mounts. Eighteen states have enacted more than two dozen laws that will make it harder for people to vote in upcoming elections, with new restrictions on voting by mail, early voting and ballot drop boxes.

Go to bit.ly/3nw981v to find out about the voting rights bills currently in Congress and what you can do to support their passage.