



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
**Economic Disparity &
Fairness in Growth**

CHAIRMAN JIM HIMES

**REQUEST *for*
INFORMATION**

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Select Committee Request for Information

The *Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth* will develop solutions to the key economic issue of our time: the prosperity gap between wealthy Americans and everyone else. America is more unequal today than it has ever been. Great wealth disparities slow our economy, poison our politics, and offend our moral sensibilities.

The Select Committee will both recommend solutions and 'Show America to Itself.' We will document the hopes, concerns and aspirations of Americans throughout our land in the belief that just behind our differences lie unity and a commitment to one another.

The Select Committee has received and will continue to receive perspectives and recommendations from economists, social policy experts, business and community leaders, and government officials. To supplement our ongoing work, the Select Committee is seeking additional detailed input from a broad range of stakeholders.

To inform the policy recommendations of the Select Committee, please provide responses to the questions below by February 15, 2022, by completing this Request for Information. *This request is optional, and you need only reply to the questions that are relevant to your organization or expertise. (In the questions below, “you” refers to you as an individual or on behalf of your organization, to be indicated at the end of your submission).*

Please submit any additional materials as a Word document and PDF (provided at the end).

Terms

The Select Committee may choose to publish your responses in whole or in part. Select Committee members, majority staff, and minority staff will receive your responses. All responses will become part of the permanent committee record in the National Archives.

Please click "I agree" to continue.

- I agree
- I do not agree

Organization Information

Are you completing this RFI on behalf of an institution or organization?

Yes

No

Institution or Organization Affiliation:

Type of organization (please select all that apply):

For-profit

Non-profit

Federal Government

State, Local, or Tribal Government

Faith-Based Organization

Academic Institution

Private Philanthropy

Think Tank

Advocacy

My institution or organization operates across two or more states.

Yes

No

Postal code of organization or organization's headquarters if you operate across multiple states:

Name and title (if applicable) of the primary point of contact for the response:

Email address for the primary point of contact:

Phone number for the primary point of contact:

Submissions without a valid email will be discarded. By sharing your email address, you will receive correspondence from the Select Committee.

Question 1

Question 1. What programs or policies has your organization created or implemented that help create good-paying jobs, increase overall worker compensation, help Americans create and save wealth, or address long-standing economic inequities among historically disenfranchised Americans?

Examples could include providing affordable child care to working parents; enrolling employees in lifelong learning courses to improve productivity; offering financial education courses or providing high-matching retirement savings accounts; or creating programs to support employees or customers who have historically experienced discrimination, like communities of color.

If you have other short or long term strategic approaches to remedy economic disparity, feel free to share that as well.

Please limit your answer to 500 words.

Questions 2-8

The following questions highlight policy areas the Select Committee has identified that could help remedy economic disparity; please identify which policy areas you would like to share your perspective on or possible solutions for, and identify what role the federal government, state and local governments, the private sector, and/or the nonprofit sector could play or partner to play in addressing the policy area.

Provide feedback for as many or as few policy areas as you would like.

Question 2. Higher Education and Job Training Policy: How can the federal government (or other entities) support higher education and worker training/retraining programs to have the necessary skills to compete and earn a good wage?

Examples of this policy area include free community college, enhanced affordability of four-year colleges, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)/ Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), career and technical education certifications, registered apprenticeship programs, reskilling displaced workers, transitioning workers more generally (to new occupations/industries), reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Please limit your answer to 500 words.

Question 3. Small Business, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation Policy: How can the federal government (or other entities) support innovation and entrepreneurship, particularly for small businesses and women-owned/minority-owned businesses, through better access to credit, capital and training?

Examples of this policy area include enhanced access to capital and banking, technical assistance, promotion and support of new and existing small businesses (especially minority- and female-owned ones) (8(A), Hub Zones and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)).

Please limit your answer to 500 words.

Question 4. Child and Family Policy: How can people receive better support when starting a family or caring for their family, especially in terms of workforce participation?

Examples of this policy area include early childhood education, paid family leave and income support programs, tax policy (child tax credit, earned income tax credit), support for care economy.

Please limit your answer to 500 words.

Question 5. Labor Market Policy: How can the federal government (or other entities) support increased pay for workers and prevent discrimination in the workplace? //

Examples of this policy area include the minimum wage; addressing race and gender wage disparities, employment benefit systems and alternative work arrangements ("gig work"), worker bargaining power/ unionization.

Please limit your answer to 500 words.

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Question 6. Infrastructure and Energy/Climate Policy: How can the federal government (or other entities) support investment in critical infrastructure to support businesses, workers, and education?

Examples of this policy area include targeted investments in physical infrastructure to support equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth, including access to broadband, transportation to increase mobility and access to jobs, renewable energy, and climate adaptation projects.

Please limit your answer to 500 words.

Question 7. Housing Policy: How can the federal government (or other entities) support access to affordable housing, whether renting or owning?

Examples of this policy area include affordable housing rental and ownership programs and solutions to civilian and veteran homelessness.

Please limit your answer to 500 words.

Question 8. Fiscal Policy: How should the federal tax code be adjusted to incentivize fair growth, remediate economic disparity and/or raise the revenues sufficient to fund programs described above?

Examples in this policy area include tax treatment of capital vs. labor income, innovating government finance mechanisms, reducing inefficient and inequitable “tax expenditures,” raising more revenue to pay for public investments, and tapping the tax-and-transfer system to adjust the distribution of economic well-being where proactive policies fall short.

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Please limit your answer to 500 words.

Overall Mission and Scope of the Select Committee

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We believe the solution to helping more people live the American Dream requires everyone to do their part, either on their own or in partnership with others. Where relevant to you and your organization, please answer the questions below regarding who can do what with who else:

Question 9. What is the most important thing the federal government can do to improve the likelihood you and your organization will broadly prosper economically?

Please limit your answer to 500 words.

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Question 10. What are the most important things state and local governments can do?

Please limit your answer to 500 words.

Question 11. What successful partnerships have you engaged in with philanthropic, community development, faith-based, or other non-profit organizations? How can the federal government support these partnerships?

Please limit your answer to 500 words.

Question 12. What successful partnerships with private-sector entities have you pursued to support economic prosperity? How can the federal government support these partnerships?

Please limit your answer to 500 words.

Question 13. What successful partnerships have you engaged in with federal, state, local, municipal and tribal governments? How can the federal government support these partnerships?

Please limit your answer to 500 words.

The Select Committee's Report

Question 14. While the Select Committee conducts its work in the coming year, we will issue intermittent reports on what we learn before producing our final written report.

In your opinion, what would be the most effective way for you and your stakeholders to stay engaged in our process and to hear about the Select Committee's findings and recommendations?

Please limit your answer to 500 words.

Other suggestions or comments

If you have other suggestions or comments for the Select Committee to review, please share them below.

Please limit your answer to 500 words.

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Please upload any additional materials here:

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