

September 10, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman, House Committee on Ways & Means

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Chairman, House Committee on Education &
Labor

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Chairman, Senate Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman, House Committee on Energy &
Commerce

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
& Technology

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chair, House Committee on Financial Services

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, & Pensions

The Honorable Nydia Velázquez
Chair, House Committee on Small Business

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
& Forestry

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure

The Honorable Ben Cardin
Chairman, Senate Committee on Small Business &
Entrepreneurship

The Honorable David Scott
Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Members of the U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Committee Chairs and Members of Congress:

The National LGBTQ Anti-Poverty Action Network, and the 45 undersigned organizations, urge you to support at least \$3.5 trillion in bold solutions to ensure the Build Back Better reconciliation legislation can adequately address the needs of low-income LGBTQ+ people, families, and communities.

LGBTQ+ people disproportionately experienced poverty before March 2020, and the pandemic has exacerbated this. According to the Williams Institute, 1 in 5 LGBTQ+ people and nearly 3 in 10 transgender people in the United States lived in poverty before the pandemic. Since the start of the pandemic, two-thirds of LGBTQ+ households have experienced a loss of employment—and two-thirds have suffered one or more serious financial problems.

We are writing to urge that you support the recovery of low-income LGBTQ+ people by:

- Raising revenues and improving equity through progressive tax policies, such as increasing the top income tax rates and the corporate tax rate, taxing wealth the same as work, ensuring corporations pay a minimum tax, and increasing IRS funding to ensure the wealthy and large corporations pay the taxes they owe.
- Supporting LGBTQ+ families by making the expansions of refundable tax credits permanent, investing in schools and childcare as a public good, and expanding nutrition support.
- Streamlining access to benefits such as SNAP, WIC, free and reduced school meals, and housing assistance, so LGBTQ+ households can more easily apply for and maintain the support they and their families are eligible for.
- Advancing LGBTQ+ inclusion in Build Back Better programs to ensure LGBTQ+ people have fair access to the resources allocated to address the health and economic consequences of the pandemic.
- Investing in LGBTQ+ owned businesses in funding and programs to support small businesses.
- Investing in home and community-based services to support disabled and elderly LGBTQ+ individuals so they can get in-home aid and nutrition services to help them stay healthy in their homes.
- Investing in LGBTQ+ workers by promoting LGBTQ+ competent and affirming training, policies, and procedures in workforce development programs, supporting employment nondiscrimination enforcement, strengthening unions, worker centers, and worker cooperatives, and investing in a subsidized jobs program.
- Enacting LGBTQ+ inclusive paid family and medical leave that includes time off for gender-affirming care and to care for chosen family.
- Expanding fair access to affordable housing for people with the lowest incomes, including rental assistance and homeownership down payment assistance for LGBTQ+ people and other underserved communities, including formerly incarcerated individuals and those with criminal records.
- Investing in data collection to expand and enhance sexual orientation and gender identity data collection and test and implement intersex status data collection in federally funded surveys.
- Expanding digital infrastructure to expand broadband coverage and reduce the cost of internet service across the country.
- Expanding Medicaid in states, especially where LGBTQ+ people are more likely to live in poverty.
- Ensuring a pathway to citizenship and access to benefits and work eligibility for immigrants and undocumented people.

Sincerely,

National LGBTQ Anti-Poverty Action Network and the following organizations:

National Organizations:

Black Women’s Blueprint
Center for Disability Rights
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Closing the Women's Wealth Gap
Family Equality
FORGE, Inc.
The Forum for Youth Investment
The Global Justice Institute
GLSEN
Hispanic Federation
Impact Fund
Movement Advancement Project
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC)
National Council of Jewish Women
National Employment Law Project
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Pacific Community Ventures
PFLAG National
Prosperity Now
R2H Action [Right to Health]
Roanhorse Consulting
The Trevor Project
United Today, Stronger Tomorrow
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

State and Local Organizations:

Equality California	CA
Legal Aid at Work	CA
Oasis Legal Services	CA
Pacific Community Ventures	CA
The Center on Colfax	CO
Wanda Alston Foundation	DC

Georgia Equality	GA
Chicago Foundation for Women	IL
Equality Illinois	IL
Illinois Accountability Initiative	IL
Pride Community Services Organization	KY
Public Justice Center	MD
Results DC/MD	MD
Fostering Forward Michigan	MI
PROMO	MO
Mazzoni Center	PA