

# Rebuilding for a More Equitable Future:

Health policy priorities for  
the federal budget

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## Successes and Aspirations

- ❖ Paid Family & Medical Leave
- ❖ Equal Pay & Opportunity Act
- ❖ Childcare affordability & compensation
- ❖ Health care affordability and access
- ❖ Higher education access
- ❖ Fair and sufficient state revenue







## *Congress: Take bold action NOW*

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- ❖ \$3.5 trillion to Build Back Better: What's in it?
- ❖ Net budget: Funded by progressive taxes and drug price negotiations
- ❖ WA has made significant progress but enormous gaps remain

# Federal budget timeline

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- ❖ High level budget resolution passed Senate & House
- ❖ Committee deadline: **THIS** Wednesday, Sept. 15
- ❖ Budget Committee: Week of Sept. 20
- ❖ Reconciliation package final votes:
  - House Vote: End of September
  - Senate Vote: By end of the year?







# Spotlight on seven key health policy priorities

1. Negotiate drug prices
2. Expand Medicare to include dental, hearing, vision
3. Make the ARPA subsidies permanent
4. Close the Medicaid coverage gap
5. Target maternal health disparities
6. Invest in home and community-based services
7. Expand health care to immigrants

# 1. Allow the federal government to negotiate drug prices

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## **Negotiating drug prices:**

- Lowers drug costs for patients
- Has strong bipartisan and public support
- Could save \$400 - \$530 billion over the next 10 years
- Presents a key funding mechanism for the rest of the package

*Based on HR 3 – Lower Drug Costs Now Act*

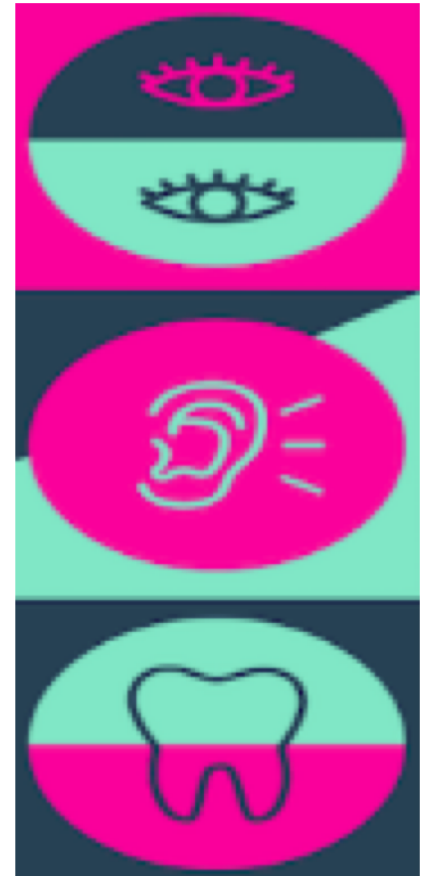


## 2. Expand Medicare to include dental, vision, and hearing

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**Dental, vision, and hearing benefits are essential to comprehensive health care, but are currently not provided in traditional Medicare coverage.**

- Nearly two-thirds of Medicare beneficiaries lack dental coverage due to the high cost.
- Low-income seniors are much less likely to access vision and hearing care than their higher income or younger counterparts.



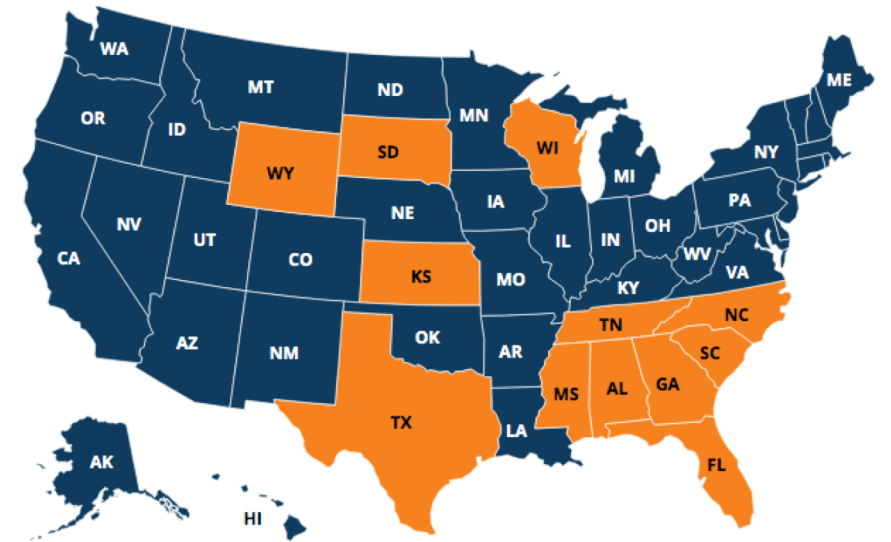


### 3. Make the ARPA subsidies permanent

Making ARPA's subsidy enhancements permanent **would decrease the number of uninsured people by up to 4.2 million** and enable more than 5 million people to enroll in subsidized marketplace coverage

### 4. Close the Medicaid coverage gap

Over **2 million low-income, disproportionately Black people** in the 12 non-expansion states still lack access to any realistic option to receive affordable health insurance.



## 5. Target maternal health disparities

- Permanently expand postpartum Medicaid benefits for low-income women and birthing parents to one year after birth in every state, and more ([Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act](#))

## 6. Invest in home & community-based services

- More than 800,000 people are currently on waiting lists
- Allowing seniors and people with disabilities to remain at home improves quality of life and saves families and the federal government millions of dollars

## 7. Expand health care to immigrants

- [The HEAL Act and Lift the Bar Act](#), would ensure access to health care for lawfully present immigrants through Medicaid and enable undocumented people to purchase coverage on the marketplace

*Call your members of Congress today!*

Sen. Patty Murray  
Sen. Maria Cantwell  
Rep. Suzan DelBene  
Rep. Derek Kilmer  
Rep. Pramila Jayapal  
Rep. Rick Larsen  
Rep. Kim Schrier  
Rep. Adam Smith  
Rep. Marilyn Strickland

Call Congressional  
Hotline: (202) 224-3121

Talking points:

- ✓ We can recover and address longstanding disparities if we **invest in people** and the care economy
- ✓ There is **more than enough wealth** to fund all of our key priorities
- ✓ Paid for by the wealthy who have profited for decades from unbalanced economic policies
- ✓ **This is our moment that future generations will judge us on**



# Stay informed

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- Sign up for EOI e-newsletter: [opportunityinstitute.org](https://opportunityinstitute.org)
- Watch for and respond to action alerts
- Email any questions or requests:

[Sam@opportunityinstitute.org](mailto:Sam@opportunityinstitute.org)



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