

The Need for an Economic Package Through Reconciliation: Talking Points

Topline Message: As families face rising costs across the board, it's more important than ever that Congress take advantage of reconciliation to pass an economic package that helps families make ends meet and afford basic necessities like food, rent, and healthcare.

- While addressing the nation's energy needs are important, a standalone energy bill is NOT a replacement for a targeted, fiscally responsible economic package that helps families afford the basics.
- Congress has one chance this year to pass just such an economic package through a special budget process called reconciliation, which only requires 51 votes for passage. By doing so, policymakers can address the big picture of rising costs, and help families:
 - o Afford the cost of raising children by ensuring the lowest income families have access to the Child Tax Credit and restoring monthly payments, and by driving down the cost of child care.
 - o Access affordable health insurance by closing the Medicaid coverage gap and providing permanent tax credits to families who otherwise could not afford health care.
- And through this process, policymakers can and should offset the cost of these programs through higher taxes on the wealthiest people and corporations, ensuring they pay their fair share.
- Senate Democrats must work together to address all of these factors through reconciliation, rather than only addressing energy through a separate bill.
- Families across the country - especially those with the lowest-incomes - are relying on Congress to help relieve the pressure of rising costs and get this done.