

# BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION

## FIGHTING FOR US



The Biden-Harris administration is a consistent partner in the AFT's efforts to make the lives of our members and the communities we serve better. While there is still much work to do, their record is remarkable and unprecedented, giving us a staging point to build a more perfect union.

### Strengthening the Economy and Creating Jobs

- ✓ **Reduced unemployment:** Created over 12 million jobs, growing the economy at nearly 6 percent—the fastest rate since 1984, resulting in an unemployment rate at a 50-year low.
- ✓ **Lowered costs:** Signed the Inflation Reduction Act, driving down costs for health care, capping prescription drug prices and lowering energy costs—saving families \$800 on health insurance premiums and \$300 on energy costs annually.
- ✓ **Increased manufacturing jobs:** Signed the CHIPS and Science Act, dedicating nearly \$300 billion to manufacturing investments, including workforce development and expanding access to STEM education to revitalize hardest-hit sectors of our economy, such as rural areas.
- ✓ **Union jobs:** Ensured technologies of the future are made in America, creating well-paying, union jobs and jobs not requiring a four-year degree.
- ✓ **Rebuilt our infrastructure:** Led the fight in passing the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to invest in and modernize critical infrastructure.

### Investing in Public Education

- ✓ **Historic investments:** Biden's budgets include historic investments in education, including community schools, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), early education, Pell grants and career and technical education.
- ✓ **Reopened schools:** Signed the American Rescue Plan, providing over \$120 billion to help schools reopen safely, recruit and retain educators and school personnel and support students, including addressing students' mental health and learning needs.
- ✓ **Career and technical education:** Signed the CHIPS and Science Act, investing in STEM education and experiential learning, creating good-paying, union jobs not requiring a four-year degree.
- ✓ **Environmentally safe schools:** Signed legislation to transition to clean and zero-emission school buses, remove lead in drinking water at schools and child care centers and invest in broadband for families to access affordable, high-speed internet.

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

Randi Weingarten  
PRESIDENT

Fedrick C. Ingram  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Evelyn DeJesus  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

## Supporting Healthcare Workers and Quality Healthcare

- ✓ **Healthcare workers:** Signed the Health Care Provider Protection Act, reducing mental health crises, burnout and behavioral health conditions among healthcare professionals.
- ✓ **Prescription drugs:** Required Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices and capped cost of insulin at \$35 a month for Medicare users.
- ✓ **Health care coverage:** Lowered health insurance costs for 13 million people by average of \$800 per year with many qualifying for plans costing \$10 or less per month, prevented insurance premium spikes and increased the number of people with health insurance to the highest level ever, with the uninsured rate at historically low 8 percent.

## Making Higher Education More Accessible

- ✓ **Loan forgiveness:** Provided historic student debt relief for middle- and working-class families by forgiving \$10,000 in student loan debt to millions and \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients.
- ✓ **Public Service Loan Forgiveness program (PSLF):** Repaired the PSLF program, securing loan forgiveness for over 370,000 borrowers, including frontline workers and others who have dedicated their lives to public service.

## Supporting Workers and Labor

- ✓ **Unionizing:** Established pro-worker majority on the National Labor Relations Board.
- ✓ **Collective bargaining:** Signed an executive order enabling federal workers to collectively bargain, supported striking workers at Amazon and Kellogg and called for passage of the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act to make it easier to join a union.
- ✓ **Protected Pensions:** Provided funding to the Central States Pension fund, securing the pensions of more than 350,000 workers and retirees from 60 percent cuts.

## Social Justice and Civil Rights

- ✓ **Judicial nominations:** Appointed Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court, the first Black woman to serve on the nation's highest court, and appointed a record number of women and racial and ethnic minorities to federal courts.

- ✓ **Voting rights:** Instructed federal agencies to promote voting access and registration.
- ✓ **Respect for Marriage Act:** Signed historic legislation extending federal protections for marriage between same-sex and interracial couples.
- ✓ **LGBTQIA+ protection:** Reversed the Trump administration's position, thereby ensuring Title IX doesn't discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
- ✓ **Reproductive rights:** Signed executive orders to protect access to reproductive health care, including abortion, contraception and safeguarding patient privacy.

## Reducing Gun Violence

- ✓ **Closed loopholes:** Passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, narrowing the "boyfriend loophole" to keep guns out of the hands of convicted dating partners.
- ✓ **Invested in communities and students:** Invested in community-based violence interruption programs and community schools and expanded mental health services in schools to support school safety.

## Environmental Justice

- ✓ **Fighting climate change:** Took executive action and signed legislation to reduce pollution endangering overburdened communities, lower energy costs for families and create well-paying jobs.
- ✓ **Environmental protection:** Protected more lands and waters in his first year of office than any president in six decades.

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