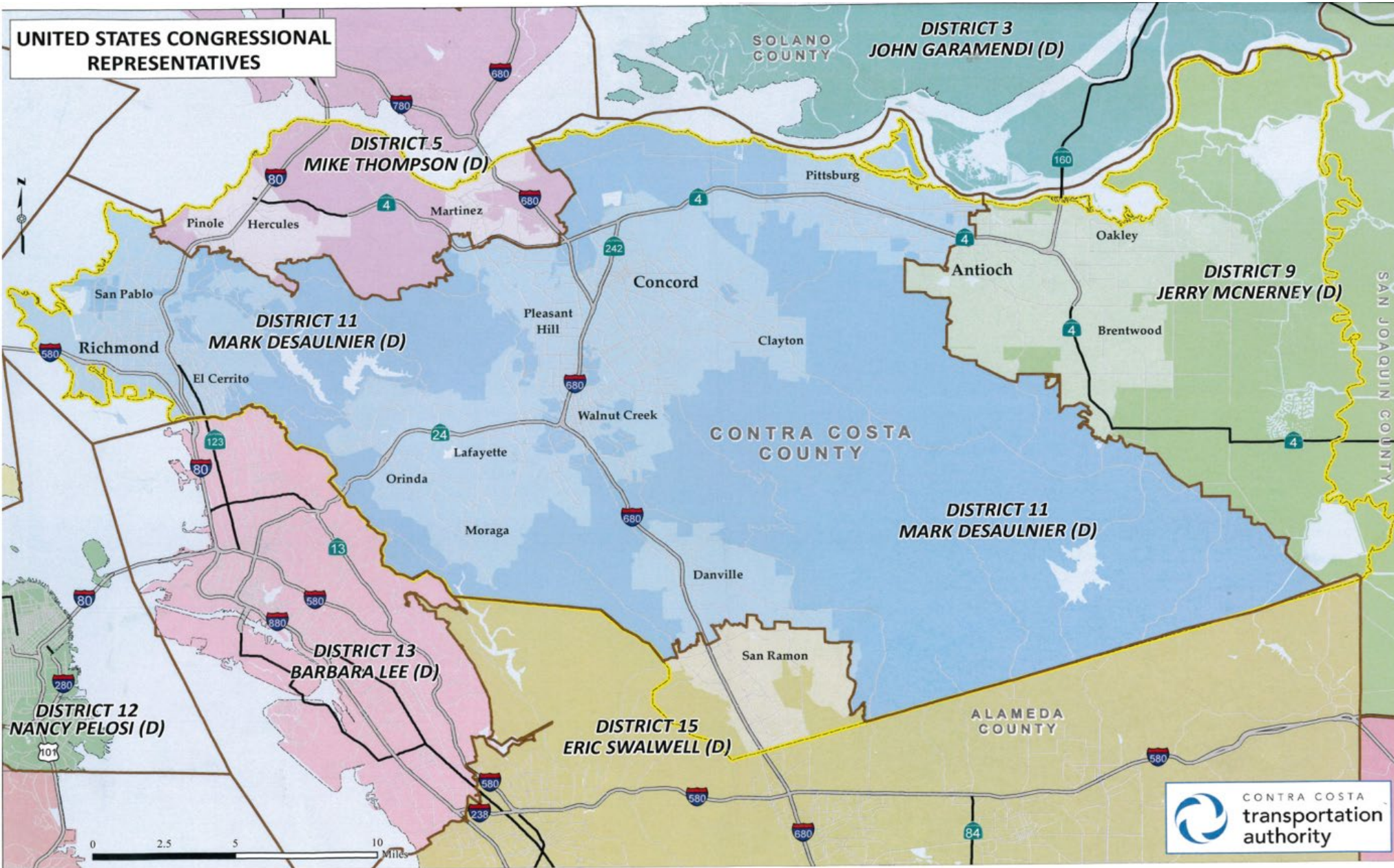


Congressman Mark DeSaulnier Town Hall

DECEMBER 16, 2021



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

The IIJA is a **once-in-a-generation investment** in our nation's infrastructure and competitiveness that will create an **average 1.5 million jobs a year for the next ten years.**

- ▶ The package, which became law November 15th, overall contains \$1.2 trillion, with **\$550 billion in new spending.**
- ▶ To **repair our roads, bridges, and transportation systems**, California is expected to receive:
 - \$25.3 billion for highway programs
 - \$9.45 billion to improve public transportation
 - \$384 million for **EV charging network**
- ▶ To **ensure safe drinking water and to protect public utilities**, California will receive:
 - \$100 million for broadband coverage
 - \$84 million to protect against wildfires
 - \$40 million to protect against cyberattacks

Bay Area Benefits from the IJA

- ▶ The Bay Area is expected to receive:
 - **\$4.5 billion** in funding for **transit and highways programs**
 - Funding for **zero emission vehicle** charging infrastructure
 - Funding to make our **transportation systems more resilient** to climate change
- ▶ This record influx in funding means Contra Costa can **fix local streets and roads**, build **safe sidewalks and bike lanes**, and invest in other local transportation priorities along I-680 corridor.
- ▶ Future funding may be used to:
 - **modernize BART** and fund core bus services
 - expand **ferry services** for Richmond
 - improve **safe routes to school**
 - create more **affordable housing options**
 - curb **greenhouse gas emissions**
 - Enhance broadband infrastructure

Why Do We Need to Build Back Better?

- ▶ UNICEF **ranks the U.S. last on indicators for family-friendly policies** like paid leave and child care among 41 high- and middle-income countries .
- ▶ “We have reached a tipping point on the need for climate action. **The disruption to our climate and our planet is already worse than we thought**, and it is moving faster than predicted.” - UN Secretary General António Guterres
- ▶ **To afford a one-bedroom rental unit in Contra Costa County making minimum wage, a person would need to work 109 hours per week.**
- ▶ Inequality in the U.S. has never been greater. CBO data indicates that **the top 1% earns 93x as much as the bottom 20%**. It is long past time for the wealthy to pay their fair share.
- ▶ Compared among 11 top high-income countries, **the United States ranks last overall in health care system performance**, despite spending far more of its gross domestic product on health care. The U.S. ranks last on access to care, administrative efficiency, equity, and health care outcomes.
- ▶ The gap in life expectancy between the U.S. and comparable countries has widened substantially. Prior to the pandemic, **life expectancy at birth was increasing in comparable countries**, while **the U.S. had experienced slower growth, with declines in recent years**. Despite similar life expectancies in 1980 (74.5 and 73.7 years, respectively), in 2020, life expectancy was 77.3 years in the U.S. and 82.1 in comparable countries.
 - ▶ <https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/chart-collection/u-s-life-expectancy-compare-countries/#item-life-expectancy-september-2021-update-chart-1>

Build Back Better Act (BBB)

The Build Back Better Act is a victory for families and workers through its transformational investments in education, child care, paid leave, health care, housing, and more.

- ▶ The package contains roughly **\$2 trillion** that would lead to the **largest expansion of the social safety net in 50 years.**
- ▶ In order to provide **90% of parents with young children the opportunity to reenter the workforce** and make historic investments in education for all children, Build Back Better:
 - ▶ Provides **free preschool** for three- and four-year-olds
 - ▶ Lowers the cost of **high-quality child care**
 - ▶ Makes **4 weeks of paid leave** available to all workers

Build Back Better Act (BBB)

- ▶ In addition, by ensuring the wealthiest Americans and big corporations pay their fair share, Build Back Better:
 - ▶ **Invests in health care** by lowering the cost of prescription drugs; expanding Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act; bringing down costs of long-term care; and supporting care workers;
 - ▶ Takes **action on climate** through expanded tax credits for clean energy and programs to drive down pollution
 - ▶ Creates **affordable housing**, supports **long-term care workers**, expands **workforce development**, and much more
- ▶ The Build Back Better Act passed in the House on November 19th with my support

Children and Technology

- ▶ More than one-third of parents with children under age 12 say their child began interacting with smartphones before age 5
- ▶ Studies suggest that high amounts of screen time can correlate with anxiety, depression, and attention issues in children and teens
- ▶ In the classroom:
 - ▶ Nearly 93% of households with school-aged children have participated in some form of remote learning during COVID-19
 - ▶ Most children receive higher quality education in-person compared to remote learning
 - ▶ Technology in the classroom has been shown to help children who benefit from alternative learning methods

Where Are We Now?

- ▶ **Build Back Better:** The Senate must pass the Build Back Better Act and other critical reforms that have already passed out of the House this year.
- ▶ **Funding the Government:** The House and Senate negotiated a bill to fund the government before funding expired in early December.
- ▶ **Raising the Debt Ceiling:** After reaching a compromise with Senate Republicans, this week Democrats passed a bill to raise the debt ceiling, ensuring the U.S. can pay its bills and not default for the first time in history.

This Year in Congress

House Democrats have continued to make historic investments in workers, families, and the economy, including by passing the following legislation:

- ▶ **For the People Act (H.R. 1)**, a package of anti-corruption and pro-democracy reforms;
- ▶ **Bipartisan Background Checks Act (H.R. 8)** to close deadly loopholes and require a background check on every firearm sale in America;
- ▶ **Women's Health Protection Act (H.R. 3755)** to guarantee equal access to abortion;
- ▶ **Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 7)** to address gender pay inequity;
- ▶ **PRO Act (H.R. 842)** to strengthen and expand workers' ability to unionize; and the
- ▶ **American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6)** and the **Farm Workforce Modernization Act (H.R. 1603)** to provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, and farm workers.

Committees

▶ **Education & Labor**

- ▶ Ensure that Americans' needs are addressed so that students and workers may move forward in a changing school system and a competitive global economy

▶ **Transportation & Infrastructure**

- ▶ Maintain and improve the transportation and infrastructure in our country to best ensure the efficient flow of people, goods, and ideas

▶ **Oversight & Reform**

- ▶ Main investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives

▶ **Rules**

- ▶ Weigh in on major pieces of legislation before they are brought to the House Floor for a vote

Actions Since Coming to Congress

- ▶ Hosted **150 town halls**
- ▶ Attended **1,200 community events**
- ▶ Responded to **713,070 constituent inquiries**
- ▶ Assisted **7,900 constituents** with federal issues
- ▶ Flown **733,447 miles** between Contra Costa and DC
- ▶ Authored **55 bills** and passed **84 efforts in the House**

Some Legislation Our Office Has Introduced

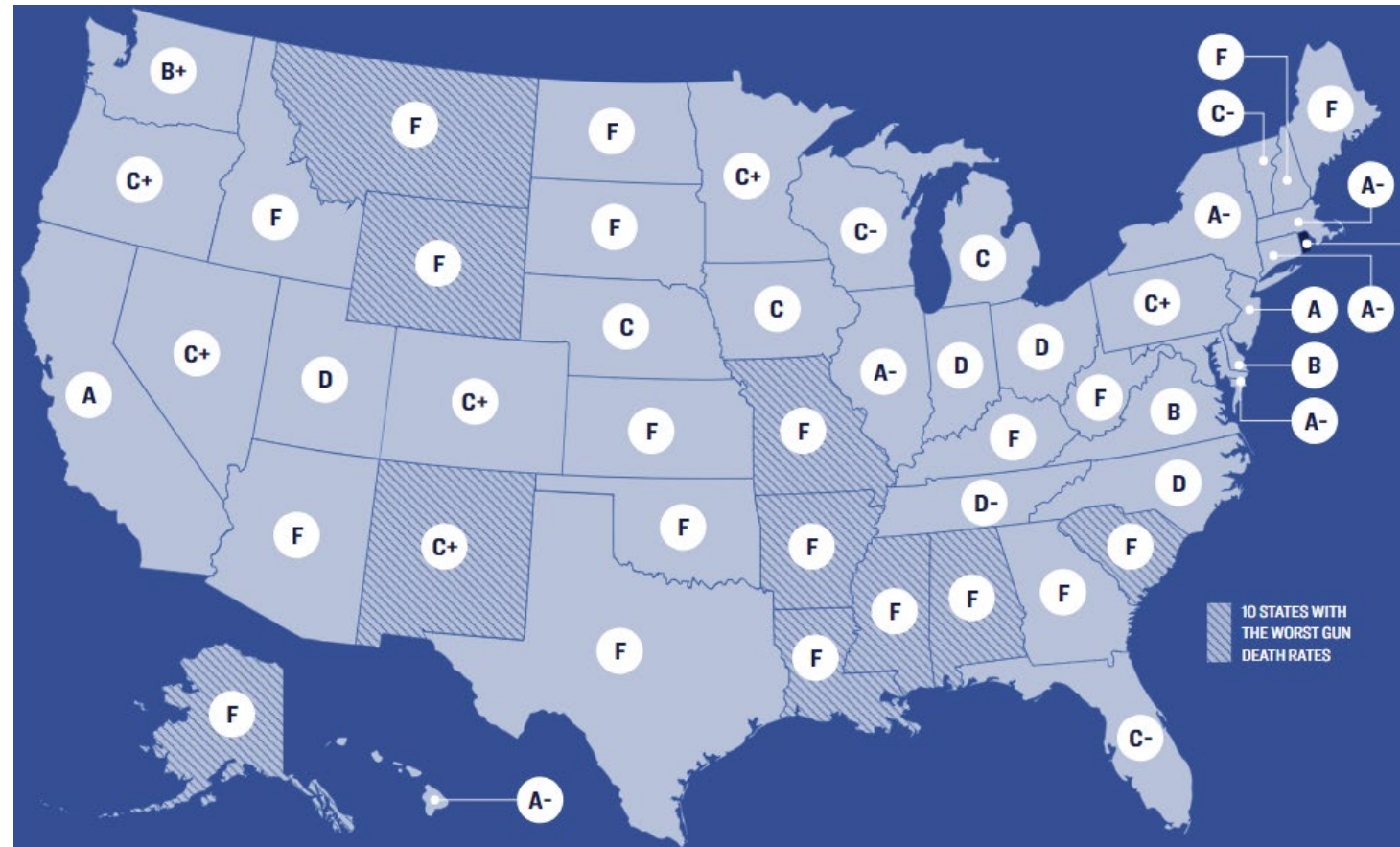
- ▶ **CEO Accountability and Responsibility Act (H.R. 3301)** – Levels the playing field between CEOs with out of control salaries and everyday workers;
- ▶ **Jobs for a Carbon Free Transportation System Act (H.R. 5896)** – Helps transition our economy off fossil fuels to cleaner, renewable energy while simultaneously supporting workers and communities;
- ▶ **Rosie the Riveter National Historic Site Expansion Act (H.R. 1117)** – Adds Nystrom Elementary School to the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park;
- ▶ **School Food Modernization Act Act (H.R. 4379)** – Helps local schools replace outdated kitchen equipment in an effort to provide more healthy and nutritious meals to students;
- ▶ **Saving Local News Act (H.R. 6068)** – Creates a new pathway for local news organizations to gain non-profit status;
- ▶ **Suicide Prevention Assistance Act (H.R. 2648)** – Creates a grant program to help integrate mental health screenings as part of primary care visits;

Some Legislation Our Office Has Introduced - Continued

- ▶ **Equitable Transit Oriented Development Support Act (H.R. 2206)** – Creates loans for affordable housing and developments in underserved communities near transit hubs;
- ▶ **Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act (H.R. 5216)** – Creates policies to protect student athletes who may have concussions;
- ▶ **Deportation Relief for Isabel Bueso and Her Family (H.R. 785)** – Provides permanent status for Isabel Bueso to continue receiving life-saving medical treatment;
- ▶ **Gun Safety Board and Research Act (H.R. 5273)** – Establishes a gun safety board to research and address the epidemic of gun violence;
- ▶ **National Discovery Trails Act (H.R. 4878)** – Expands the National Trails System by adding the American Discovery Trail, the nation's only coast-to-coast multi-use trail;
- ▶ **Exonerating the 50 African-American Sailors Court-Martialed by the Navy After the Port Chicago Explosion (H.Con.Res. 40)** – Recognizes the sacrifice of the sailors who died in the explosion at Port Chicago and exonerates the 50 sailors convicted of mutiny.

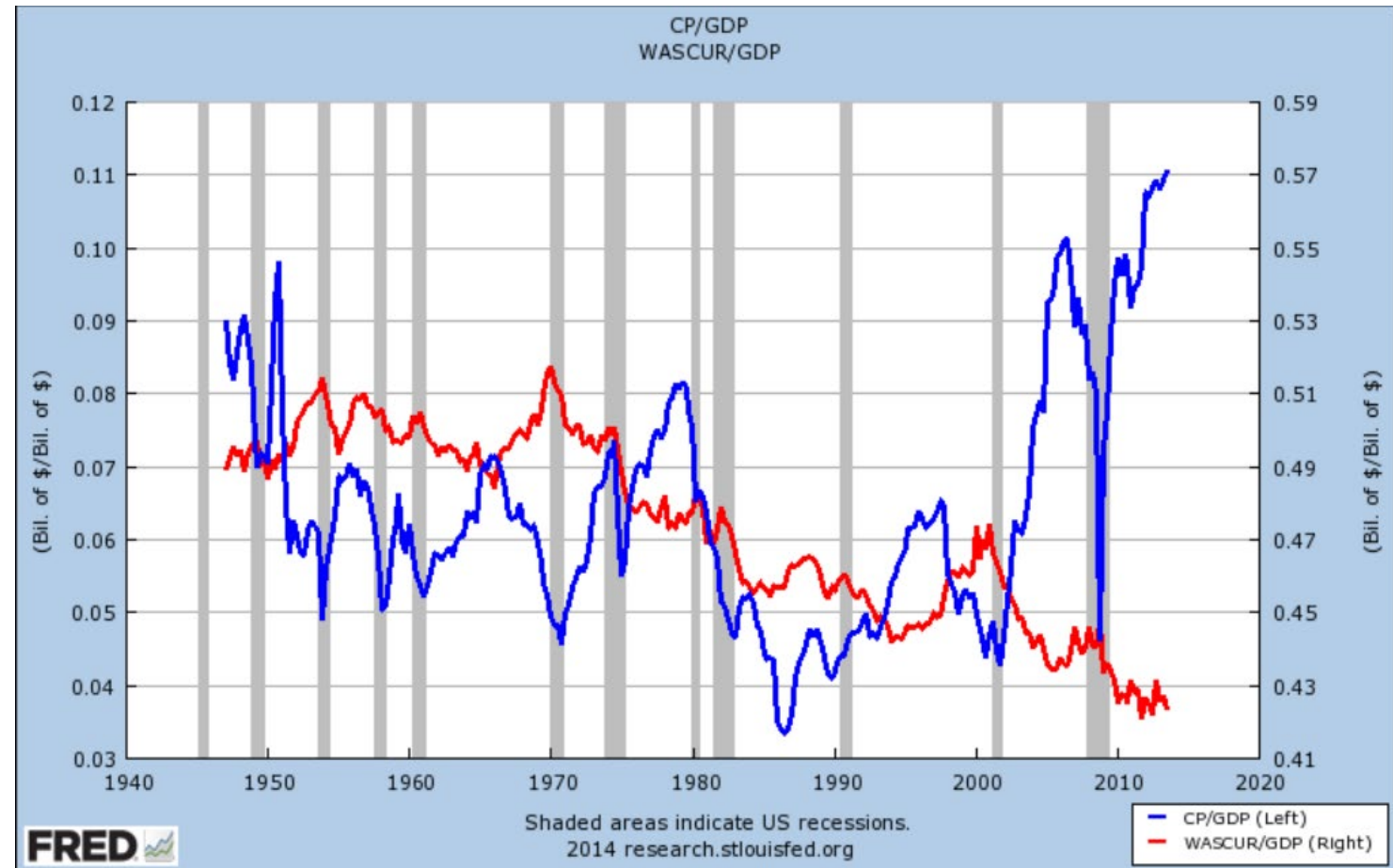
The Gun Violence Epidemic

States with stronger laws have fewer gun deaths per capita while states with weaker laws have more gun deaths. Simply put, **smart gun laws are saving lives, but to reach their full potential, those laws urgently need to be adopted nationwide**



Inequality

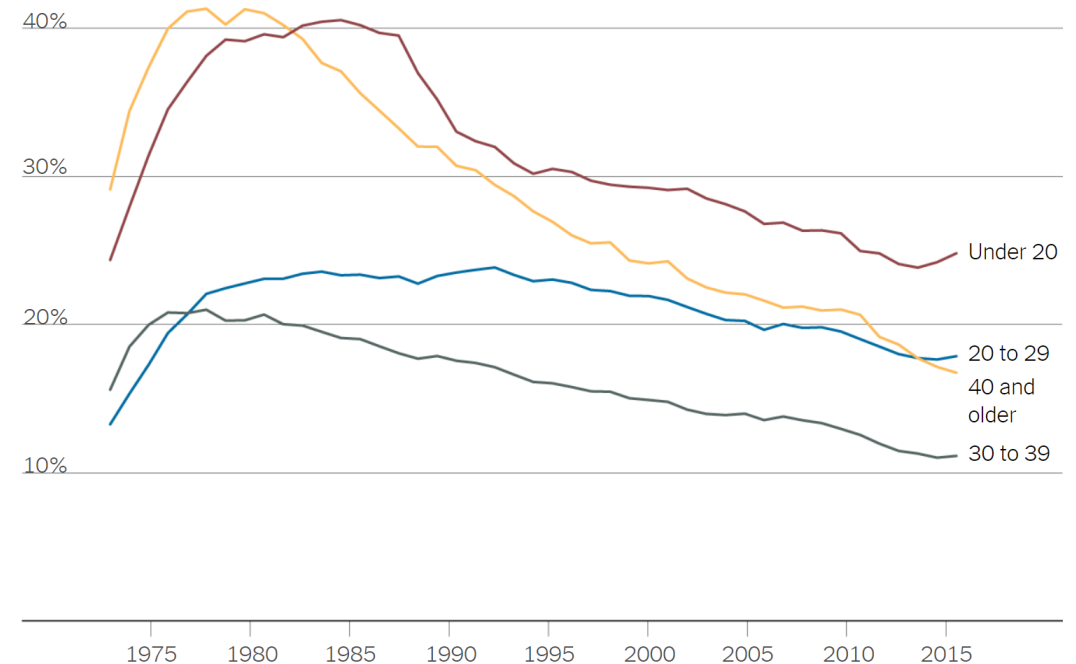
As the rich get richer, workers are being left behind. The inequality between employers and employees continues to grow and to support the workforce, we need to get it back on track



Current Supreme Court Cases

- ▶ The Supreme Court is currently considering *Dobbs v. Jackson*, which challenges a Mississippi law that would ban most abortions after 15 weeks
- ▶ The Supreme Court also ruled this month that a Texas law banning most abortions after six weeks can remain in place

Abortions as a share of pregnancies, 1973-2017



Source: Guttmacher Institute

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