TOWN HALL ON THE AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

Hosted by Congressman DeSaulnier

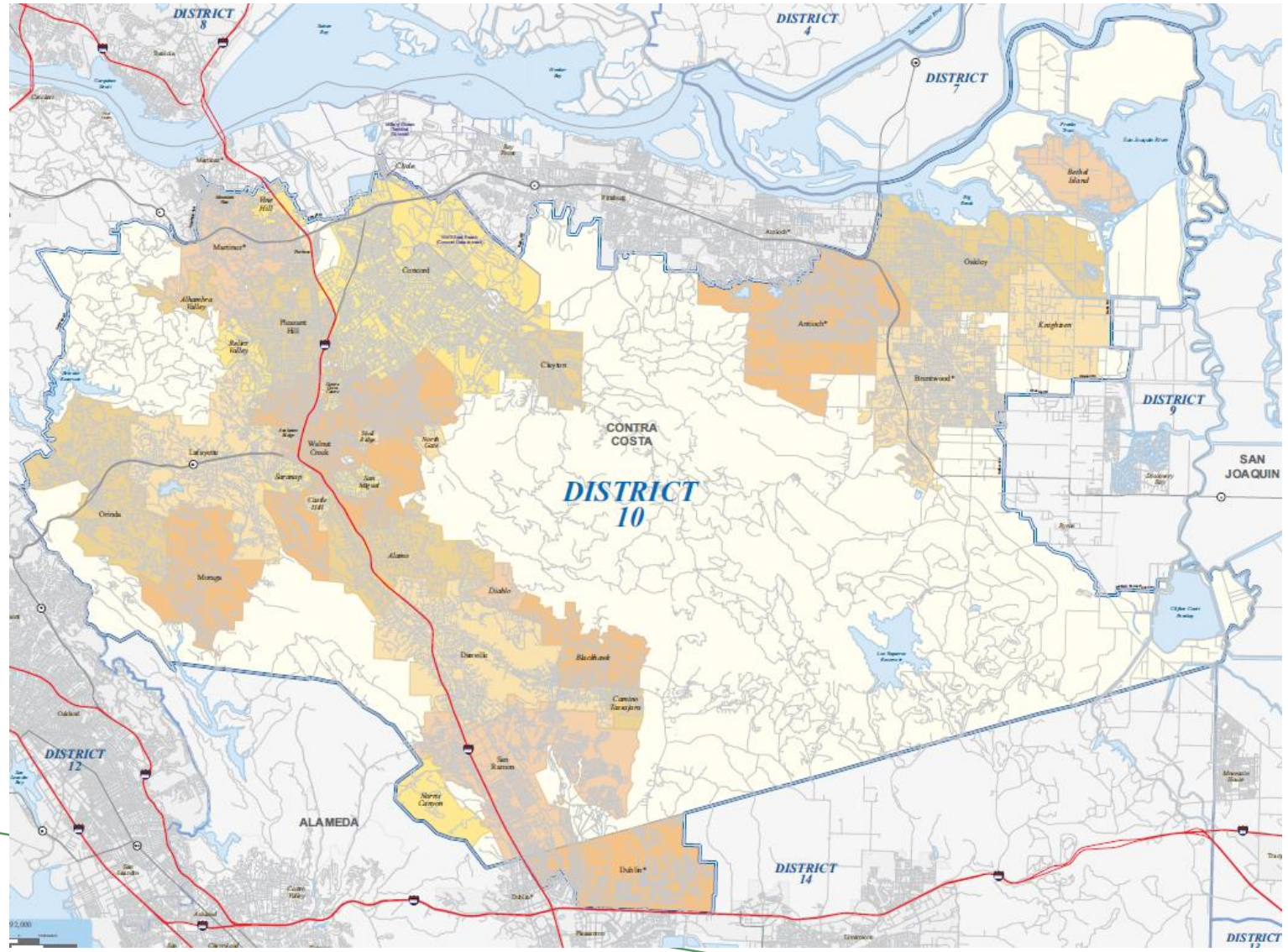


House Ethics: Congressional vs. Campaign Activity

- Members of Congress are governed by the House Code of Official Conduct, which includes standards for whether, how, when, and where Members may engage in campaign activity.
  - This town hall is being hosted in my official capacity as Representative for California's 10th District, not as a candidate in a campaign. Therefore, House Rules prevent me from:
    - Solicitating, receiving, and accepting campaign contributions.
    - Making political endorsements.
    - Directing attendees to websites, resources, or events created or operated by a campaign or any campaign-related entity, including political parties and campaign committees.

You can learn more about the House Code of Official Conduct and how it relates to this event here:

California's 10th Congressional District



CA-10 includes most of Contra Costa and part of Alameda County

Committees and Caucuses

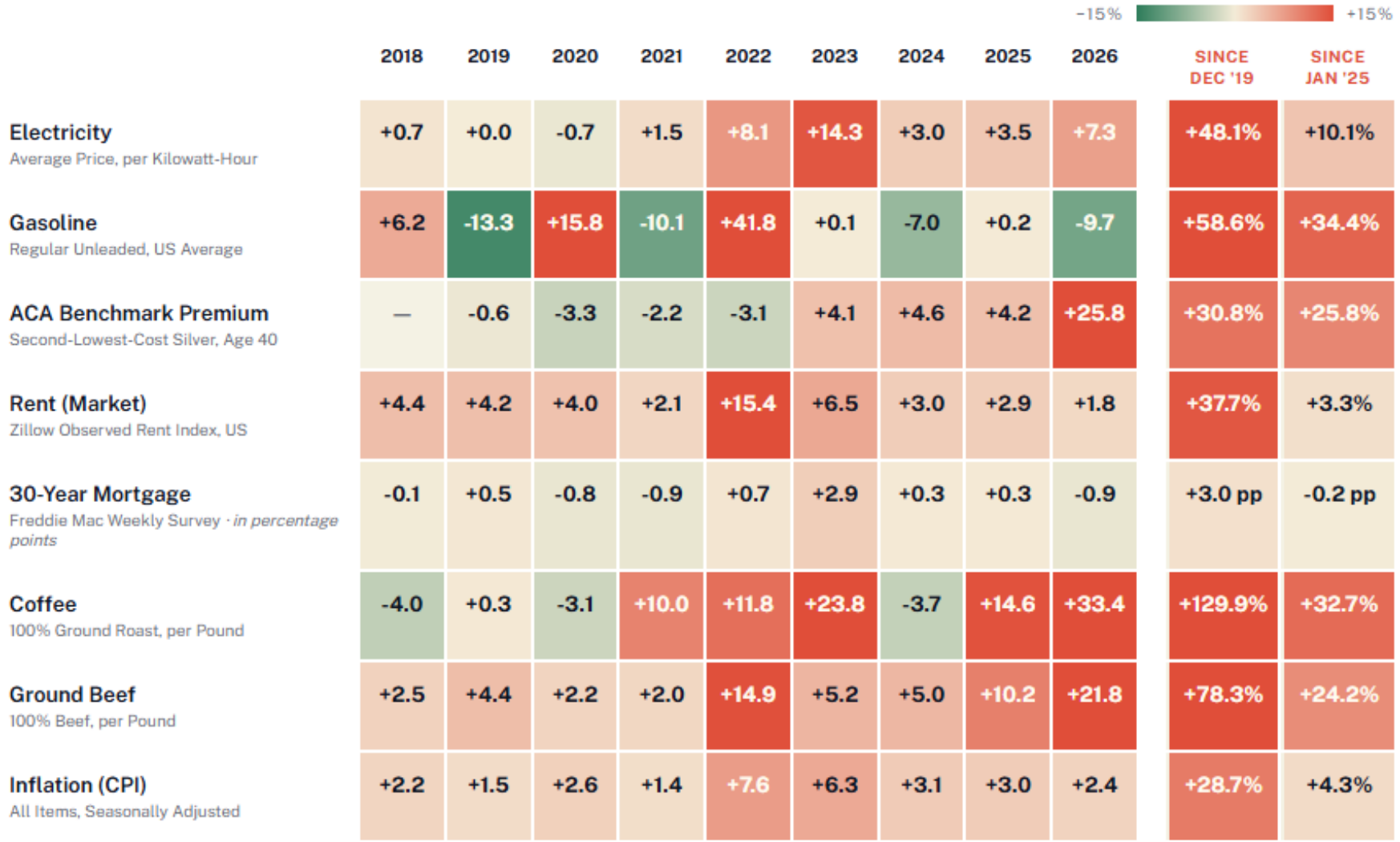
COMMITTEES:

- Ethics Committee – Ranking Member
- Education & Workforce Committee
    - Ranking Member of the Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee
    - Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
- Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
    - Subcommittees on Highways, Aviation, Water Resources and Environment, and Railroads

CAUCUSES:

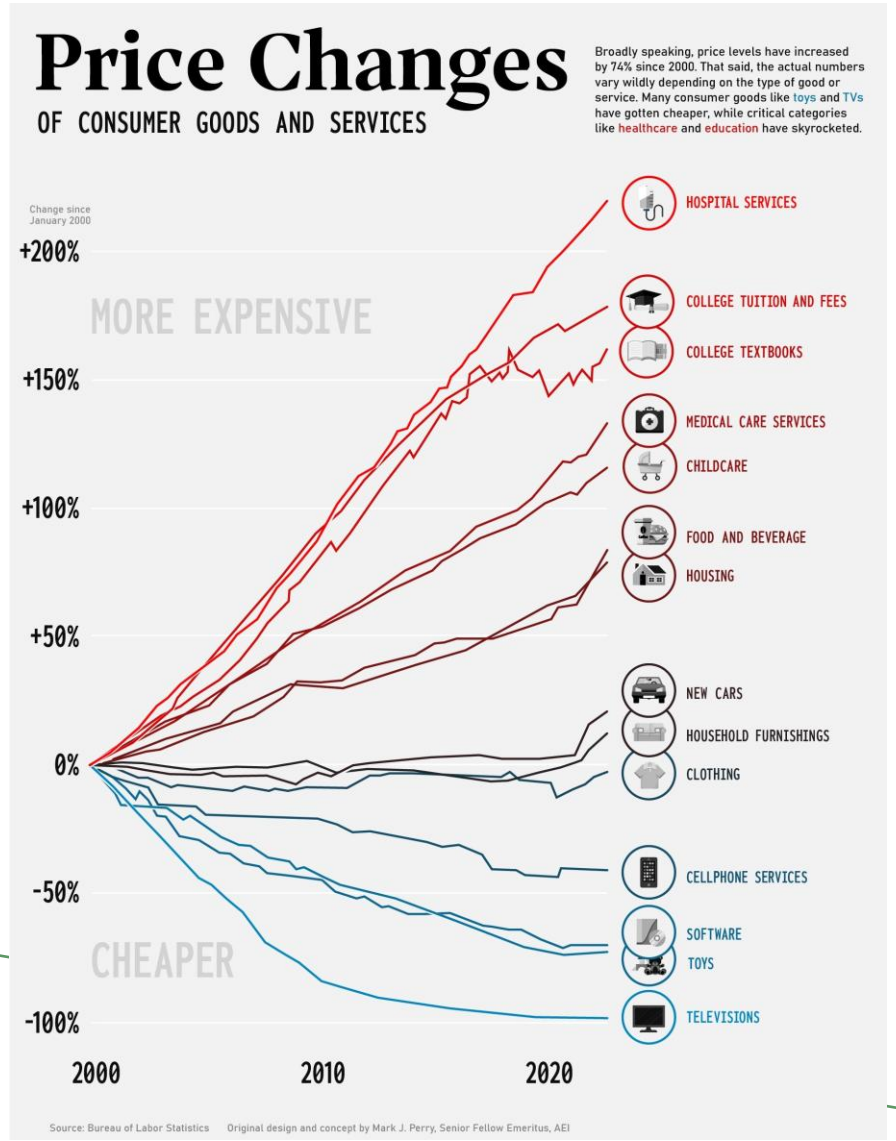
- Congressional Animal Protection Caucus
- Congressional Progressive Caucus
- Bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus – Co-Chair
- Urban Regional Studies Caucus – Co-Chair
- Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition
    - Climate Jobs Task Force – Co-Chair
- Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
- Reproductive Freedom Caucus

The Rising Cost of Living



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	SINCE DEC '19	SINCE JAN '25
Electricity Average Price, per Kilowatt-Hour	+0.7	+0.0	-0.7	+1.5	+8.1	+14.3	+3.0	+3.5	+7.3	+48.1%	+10.1%
Gasoline Regular Unleaded, US Average	+6.2	-13.3	+15.8	-10.1	+41.8	+0.1	-7.0	+0.2	-9.7	+58.6%	+34.4%
ACA Benchmark Premium Second-Lowest-Cost Silver, Age 40	—	-0.6	-3.3	-2.2	-3.1	+4.1	+4.6	+4.2	+25.8	+30.8%	+25.8%
Rent (Market) Zillow Observed Rent Index, US	+4.4	+4.2	+4.0	+2.1	+15.4	+6.5	+3.0	+2.9	+1.8	+37.7%	+3.3%
30-Year Mortgage Freddie Mac Weekly Survey · *in percentage points*	-0.1	+0.5	-0.8	-0.9	+0.7	+2.9	+0.3	+0.3	-0.9	+3.0 pp	-0.2 pp
Coffee 100% Ground Roast, per Pound	-4.0	+0.3	-3.1	+10.0	+11.8	+23.8	-3.7	+14.6	+33.4	+129.9%	+32.7%
Ground Beef 100% Beef, per Pound	+2.5	+4.4	+2.2	+2.0	+14.9	+5.2	+5.0	+10.2	+21.8	+78.3%	+24.2%
Inflation (CPI) All Items, Seasonally Adjusted	+2.2	+1.5	+2.6	+1.4	+7.6	+6.3	+3.1	+3.0	+2.4	+28.7%	+4.3%

The Cost of Essentials Is Skyrocketing

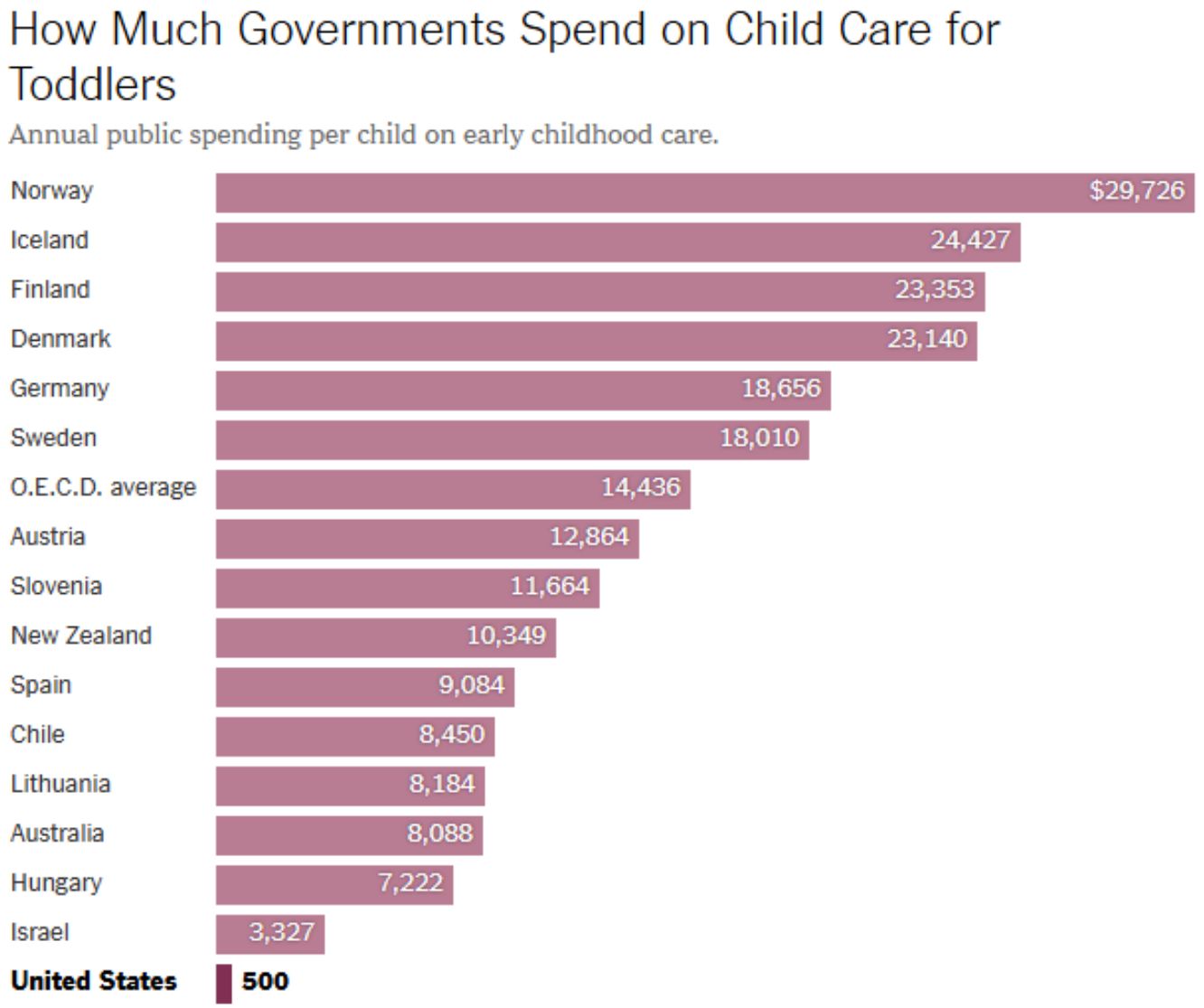


- The Urban Institute found that 49% of people in American families don't have the resources to cover essential expenses.
- The cost of essential goods and services is rising faster than earnings. Since 2017, average earnings have grown 43%, but in that same period home prices rose 81% (and rent by 54%) and the cost of medium-coverage health insurance rose 77%.

Childcare Costs Are Staggering

The cost of childcare continues to be one of the biggest limits to women joining the workforce.

- Median yearly income of working women in Contra Costa County in 2022: $46,633
- Median yearly cost of center-based childcare for toddlers in 2022: $19,940



The Trump Administration on the Affordability Crisis: “It’s a Hoax”



Donald Trump at his Midterm Convention where he called the affordability crisis “fake.”

By the Numbers: The Affordability Crisis Under Trump

- Since President Trump took office last year, American families have had to spend **$3,100 more on everyday essentials**, including housing, groceries, and energy.

- A February 2026 report found that almost **90%** of the cost of Trump's tariffs were **paid for by American consumers and businesses**, increasing the cost of living by **over $1,700 per family.**
  - House Democrats, joined by six Republicans, passed H.J.Res. 72 to overturn the President's harmful tariffs on Canada.

- President Trump's war in Iran has **cost American households $1,760 on average**, considering higher costs for gas, airfare, groceries, and raised borrowing rates and defense spending, according to Moody's Analytics.

- Meanwhile, Donald Trump is spending **over a billion dollars** on vanity projects in Washington, D.C., including his golden ballroom and triumphal arch.

The Oligarchy Under Trump



Mark Zukerberg, Jeff Bezos, Sundar Pichai, and Elon Musk at Trump's Inauguration. Together these four individuals are worth **$886.7 billion**. Meanwhile, the bottom 25 percent of earners in the U.S. make **just $31,200 per year**.

Congressional Republicans are Not Addressing the Affordability Crisis

The 119th Congress, controlled by a Republican Majority, has been called a **"do-nothing Congress."** Since 2025, under Speaker Mike Johnson, House Republicans have:

- **Canceled 63 out of 261** or **24%** of scheduled voting days that Congress could have used to pass legislation addressing the affordability crisis.

- **Been on track to pass fewer laws than any Congress in history since the Civil War**, only enacting **113 pieces of legislation** in nearly two years. This is despite the fact that Republicans have controlled the House, Senate, and the Presidency throughout this time.

    - Of these 113 bills signed into law, Republicans have prioritized passing bills that attack our public lands, engage in culture wars, fund immigration enforcement without oversight, and cut benefits for the people who need them the most.

What Democrats Stand for

House Democrats are committed to tackling the affordability crisis in America and ensuring that everyone has access to a **good paying job**, **housing they can afford**, **high-quality healthcare** that doesn't leave them bankrupt, **strong public schools**, and **financial security in retirement**.

Congressman DeSaulnier supports legislation that would:

- Expand access to **family and medical leave** benefits for workers.
- Make it easier for workers to **organize a union** and bargain for a fair contract.
- Fix our healthcare system by transitioning to **Medicare for All** and **lowering the cost of prescription drugs**.
- Tackle corporate greed and **make the ultra-wealthy pay their fair share**.

THANK YOU!

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