Progressive Town Hall
with special guest Congressman Mark Pocan

MAY 9, 2022
Protecting against Attacks on Your Constitutional Rights

- The recently leaked draft opinion from the Supreme Court indicating they would vote to overturn Roe V. Wade is an attack on reproductive freedom and the constitutional right to make one’s own health care decisions.

- Additionally, this decision would set a precedent that threatens other personal liberties, including the right of LGBTQ+ Americans to marry.

- What are Democrats doing about it?
  - The House has already passed the Women’s Health Protection Act, which would protect by law a women’s constitutional right to access abortion.
Supporting Worker’s Rights

- **Union members have 20% higher wages, more paid leave**, are 28% more likely to have employer-sponsored health insurance, and have better access to pensions than their non-union counterparts.

- **Union coverage today is half of what it was 40 years ago**, and research shows this de-unionization accounts for up to one third of the growth in income and wealth inequality in our country.

- Corporate employers spend nearly $340 million per year on union avoidance consultants to lead anti-union campaigns.

- **Democrats passed the PRO Act**, which would:
  - Enact meaningful, enforceable penalties for companies that violate workers’ rights.
  - Expand workers’ collective bargaining rights.
  - Strengthen workers’ access to fair union elections.
Today, annual per capita spending on prescription drugs is more than $1,200, and the total out-of-pocket costs that consumers pay for drugs is more than $80 billion per year.

In 2018, 3 in 10 adults chose to forgo prescribed medication due to the high cost.

The average profit margin for a large drug company is between 15 and 20 percent, compared to an average large company margin in other sectors between 4 and 9 percent.

House Democrats passed the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, which would allow the federal government to negotiate the cost of prescription drugs, driving down costs for Americans.
Expanding Access to Early Education & Child Care

- Children who attend preschool can better socialize, manage stress, solve problems, and have higher job earnings later in life.
  - Participation in **Head Start** increases a student’s likelihood of pursuing **some higher education** 4-12 percentage points.
- Families headed by married couples spend about **10% of household income** on child care while single-parent families spend about **34%** of their income.
- **House Education and Labor Committee’s Key Priorities:**
  - **Child Care for Working Families Act** – would ensure affordable, high-quality child care for working class families and support universal access to high-quality preschool for 3- and 4-year olds.
Practically 100% of the global warming witnessed over the past 150 years can be attributed to human activity.

If we do not cut carbon emissions in the next 30 years, rising sea levels, more extreme weather, and water and crop scarcity may cause as many as 143 million people to be displaced.

We must transition to clean energy by:

- Growing Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure – Clean Corridors Act
- Investing in low-carbon, efficient transportation corridors all while creating good paying union jobs – Jobs for a Carbon Free Transportation System Act.
- Providing direct support for communities to convene industry, the local fossil fuel workforce, and environmental advocates to plan to transition workers to meaningful sustainable work.
## Contact Our Office

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