



## AFSCME FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### Quality Public Services for All

- **Pass comprehensive COVID-19 relief that includes robust federal financial aid to states, cities, towns and school districts** to prevent further public sector job losses and preserve vital public services; public health funds to ensure rigorous testing; contact tracing and equitable, rapid vaccine distribution; safety protections for workers on the front lines and other needed investments.
- **Invest in essential public services and jobs** that serve vital community needs including public health; early care and public education; higher education; social and nutrition services; and rebuilding our nation's crumbling infrastructure with large investments in infrastructure needs, such as mass transit, roads and bridges, public health, public schools, public housing and more, while avoiding privatizing, outsourcing or harmful profit-motivated financing schemes, like "Social Impact Bonds."
- **Raise significant additional progressive revenues to help fund needed investments in public services** by closing tax loopholes; raising tax rates on top earners and the wealthy; taxing investment income the same as wages; ending incentives to move jobs and profits overseas; and repealing tax giveaways for millionaires and big businesses in the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) to ensure that wealthy taxpayers and profitable corporations pay their fair share.

### A Voice on the Job for All

- **Strengthen labor unions and make it easier to join labor unions** with stricter enforcement of existing labor laws; increased penalties for employer violations; and expanded collective bargaining rights, including enactment of the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act, which strengthens the right of public employees to join unions and engage in collective bargaining; and enactment of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act (PRO Act), which makes it easier for private sector workers to form and join unions.
- **Enact the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act**, which mandates the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue a workplace violence prevention standard requiring employers within these sectors to develop and implement a plan to protect their employees from workplace violence.
- **Support working families** by increasing the minimum wage; enacting paid family and medical leave; improving job protections; expanding child care; enacting equal pay laws like the Paycheck Fairness Act and other legislation to end workplace pay and discrimination against women and others based on age, sex, nationality, color, race, religious or political belief or affiliation, sexual orientation, disability, or immigration status and promote family friendly policies.

## **Protecting Health Care for All**

- **Protect and strengthen the Affordable Care Act (ACA)** by making health care coverage more affordable for working families.
- **Protect and Expand Medicare and Medicaid** by strengthening their sustainability and coverage, and by opposing caps, benefit cuts to patients, and harmful policy changes that shift costs to families or states.
- **Pass real prescription drug reform** that reduces the price of prescription medicines, increases competition and widens the use of generic drugs.
- **Preserve current federal tax exclusion for employer-sponsored health insurance (ESI)** in the current delivery system in order to ensure that workers do not pay new taxes on their health benefits.

## **Democracy for All**

- **Strengthen the right to vote** by restoring the full protections of the Voting Rights Act, making it easier for Americans to register and vote, and ending voter suppression and gerrymandering.
- **Protect immigrants' rights and keep families together** with comprehensive immigration reform that provides a pathway to citizenship; an end to family detention and private detention centers; reform of abusive temporary work visa programs that ensures both guest workers and American workers have rights to representation and fair treatment; and protects DACA, Temporary Protective Status holders, and refugees.

## **Retirement Security for All**

- **Enhance retirement security and pension rights** by protecting and strengthening Social Security; preserving and guaranteeing defined benefit pensions; and incentivizing and encouraging retirement savings for working families without exorbitant fees.
- **Strengthen consumer protections** by requiring retirement investment advisors to provide fiduciary financial advice in their clients' best interest and thereby help investors by eliminating unnecessary fees, increasing market returns, and enhancing retirees' financial security.

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*AFSCME's 1.4 million members provide the vital services that make America happen. With members in communities across the nation, serving in hundreds of different occupations — from nurses to corrections officers, child care providers to sanitation workers — AFSCME advocates for fairness in the workplace, excellence in public services and freedom and opportunity for all working families.*