

# The U.S. Chamber Should Blame Its Own Efforts Against Affordable Child Care, Living Wages, And Infrastructure Funding For April's Slow Job Growth

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the “[world’s largest business organization](#),” immediately [blamed](#) April 2021’s slower-than-expected job growth on the enhanced federal unemployment benefit that has been in place in one form or another [since](#) the beginning of the pandemic. **The Chamber demanded an [end](#) to the jobless benefit, [arguing that](#), “paying people not to work is dampening what should be a stronger jobs market.”**

However, the Chamber seems to have been poised to attack the boosted jobless benefit since the early stages of the pandemic. **After not disclosing any lobbying on unemployment issues [since 2014](#), the Chamber suddenly resumed its lobbying on the matter in the [first quarter of 2020](#), just as the pandemic was emerging and the need for robust economic relief was becoming clear.**

Additionally, the Chamber’s opposition to the jobless benefit also appears to not reflect the reality on the ground, according to **Trump-appointed Federal Reserve Chair [Jerome Powell](#), Nobel-winning economist [Paul Krugman](#), Treasury Secretary [Janet Yellen](#), and Labor Secretary [Marty Walsh](#)—who all observed that enhanced unemployment was not to blame for April’s disappointing jobs figures.** [Yellen](#) and [Krugman](#) also rebutted the Chamber’s rhetoric by noting that **job growth was actually strong in low-wage sectors** that should have been most negatively impacted by the jobless benefit.

Instead of blaming the jobless benefit for April’s job report, Secretaries Yellen and Walsh both saw that **Americans were reluctant in returning to work due to a lack of access to [child care](#) and continued [fear of the virus](#).** Additionally, Fed Chair Powell has **pointed to companies’ [low wages](#) as a cause of April’s job report and President Biden has called on businesses to “[do their part](#)” by offering workers better wages and benefits.**

*Notably, the Chamber has been a major negative influence on the issues these experts have identified, and then some:*

- Even though it [complained](#) that the jobless benefit pays Americans more than they would earn through work, the **Chamber has [long fought to keep workers’ pay low](#)**. Just this year, it fiercely fought against the \$15 living wage and called it a “[political number](#),” despite MIT analyses showing the current minimum wage [can’t cover expenses](#) for single workers in any state and even a raised \$15 wage could [not cover expenses](#) for a typical American family of four.
- Even as it [acknowledged](#) that “parents are struggling to hold jobs without childcare,” the **Chamber has [fought](#) against Biden’s economic recovery plans—which [heavily emphasize child care](#)—and the [tax increases](#) that will fund them.**
- The **Chamber called Biden’s infrastructure plan to create [millions of jobs](#) “[dangerously misguided](#)”** for its [modest](#) corporate tax increases, even as the construction and manufacturing sectors were still experiencing [flat or declining job growth](#) in April 2021.

**The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce—The “World’s Largest Business Organization”—Called To End The Federal \$300 Unemployment Supplement As It Blamed The Benefit For April 2021’s Slower-Than-Expected Job Growth.**

**The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce—The “World’s Largest Business Organization”— Blamed The Federal \$300 Unemployment Supplement For Slower-Than-Expected Job Growth In April 2021 And Demanded Ending The Benefit.**

**May 7, 2021: Following A “Weaker-Than-Expected Jobs Report,” The U.S. Chamber Blamed The Federal \$300-Per-Week Unemployment Benefit, Claiming That “Paying People Not To Work Is Dampening What Should Be A Stronger Jobs Market.”** “The largest business lobbying group in America on Friday blamed a \$300-per-week federal jobless benefit for enticing Americans to stay at home and April’s far-weaker-than-expected jobs report. ‘The disappointing jobs report makes it clear that paying people not to work is dampening what should be a stronger jobs market,’ the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said in the hours after the Labor Department released its April 2021 employment report.” [CNBC, [05/07/21](#)]

- **The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce “Is The World’s Largest Business Organization,” With Membership That Includes “Leading Industry Associations And Large Corporations.”** “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business organization representing companies of all sizes across every sector of the economy. Our members range from the small businesses and local chambers of commerce that line the Main Streets of America to leading industry associations and large corporations.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [04/23/21](#)]

**U.S. Chamber Press Release: U.S. Chamber Calls for Ending \$300 Weekly Supplemental Unemployment Benefits to Address Labor Shortages** [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [05/07/21](#)]

**Unemployed Americans Have Qualified For Extra Unemployment Benefits Since The Start Of The COVID-19 Pandemic, Starting With A \$600 Weekly Supplement In March 2020’s CARES Act And A \$300 Weekly Supplement In March 2021’s American Rescue Plan, Which Will Expire In September 2021.** “For much of the past year, millions of unemployed Americans have qualified for a special federal jobless benefit to help replace income lost as a result of layoffs during the Covid-19 pandemic. The first such federal jobless benefit began under former President Donald Trump in March 2020, when he signed the CARES Act. That law provided unemployed Americans with a \$600 weekly supplement, which in many cases was greater income than workers received while employed full time. [...] President Joe Biden’s \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, signed into law in March, provides unemployment payments of \$300 per week. Without any additional government intervention, that benefit will expire in early September.” [CNBC, [05/07/21](#)]

**The U.S. Chamber Claimed The \$300 Supplement “Results In Approximately One In Four Recipients Taking Home More In Unemployment Than They Earned Working.”** “One step policymakers should take now is ending the \$300 weekly supplemental unemployment benefit,’ the lobbying group added. ‘Based on the Chamber’s analysis, the \$300 benefit results in approximately one in four recipients taking home more in unemployment than they earned working.’ A Chamber spokesperson confirmed to CNBC that it will be using similar messaging to lobby the White House and Capitol Hill to end the payout.” [CNBC, [05/07/21](#)]

**After A Six-Year Hiatus On Unemployment Lobbying, The U.S. Chamber Resumed Lobbying On The Issue As The Pandemic Emerged In The First Quarter Of 2020—And The Group Has Lobbied On Unemployment In Every Quarter Since Then.**

**The U.S. Chamber—Which Resumed Its Unemployment Lobbying In The First Quarter Of 2020 After A Six-Year Hiatus On The Issue And Lobbied On Unemployment Every Quarter Since—Immediately Called To End The \$300 Jobless Benefit After The U.S. Department Of Labor Issued The April Jobs Report.**

**The U.S. Department Of Labor Issued Its Press Release On The April Jobs Report At 8:30AM On May 7, 2021.** “Transmission of material in this news release is embargoed until 8:30 a.m. (ET) Friday, May 7, 2021 [...] THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION — APRIL 2021 Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 266,000 in April, and the unemployment rate was little changed at 6.1 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today.” [Bureau of Labor Statistics, [05/07/21](#)]

**The U.S. Chamber Issued Its Press Release In Response To The April Jobs Report At 9:45AM On May 7, 2021.** “U.S. Chamber Calls for Ending \$300 Weekly Supplemental Unemployment Benefits to Address Labor Shortages Friday, May 7, 2021 - 9:45am” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [05/07/21](#)]

**Since The First Quarter Of 2020, The U.S. Chamber Has Consistently Lobbied On Unemployment Insurance Issues, Including The “Weekly \$600 Unemployment Benefit” And The “Unemployment Benefits Supplement” As It Spent \$87.5 Million On Federal Lobbying.**

Report Quarter	Relevant Lobbying Issue(s)	Lobbying Amount In Quarter
<a href="#">Q1 2020</a>	“unemployment insurance issues;”	\$15,770,000
<a href="#">Q2 2020</a>	“unemployment insurance and the COVID-19 pandemic;” “unemployment and the COVID-19 pandemic;” “unemployment insurance issues;”	\$12,300,000
<a href="#">Q3 2020</a>	“weekly \$600 Unemployment Insurance benefit, and expiration thereof;” “Various issues relating to implementation of the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136); unemployment benefits supplement”	\$20,000,000
<a href="#">Q4 2020</a>	“weekly \$600 Unemployment Insurance benefit, and expiration thereof;” “Various issues relating to implementation of the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136); unemployment benefits supplement;”	\$22,290,000
<a href="#">Q1 2021</a>	“unemployment insurance and the coronavirus pandemic;” “unemployment insurance;”	\$17,190,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$87,550,000</b>

**Prior To 2020, The U.S. Chamber’s Lobbying Reports Had Not Mentioned “Unemployment” Since 2014.** [U.S. Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [05/11/21](#)]

**Trump-Appointed Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, Nobel-Winning Economist Paul Krugman, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, And Labor Secretary Marty Walsh All Argued That The \$300 Jobless Benefit Was Not To Blame For The Labor Shortage—Against The U.S. Chamber’s Rhetoric, Yellen And Krugman Noted Job Growth Was Actually Robust In Low-Wage Industries.**

## **Trump-Appointed Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell Said It “Is Not Clear” That The Jobless Benefit Was Undermining Americans’ Willingness To Return To Work As He Suggested A Wide Variety Of Other Factors Affecting Job Growth, Include Low Wages, Lack Of Childcare, And Continued Fear Of The Virus.**

**Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell Said It “Is Not Clear” That Unemployment Supplement Was Affecting Americans’ Willingness To Return To Work, But Also Added “It Will Not Be A Factor Fairly Soon” Since The Benefits Expire In September.** “Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said Wednesday that an apparent hiring bottleneck in the labor market – which has made it difficult for employers to hire workers, despite a persistently high jobless rate – will likely end in the coming months. [...] But Powell said it was unclear whether the sweetened federal benefits were affecting workers' hesitancy to return to their jobs. 'I do also think that unemployment insurance benefits will run out in September,' he said. 'So to the extent that's a factor – which is not clear – it will not be a factor fairly soon.’” [Fox Business, [04/28/21](#)]

**Powell Named A Variety Of Other Factors Slowing Job Growth, Including Skill Mismatches, Geography, Lack Of Childcare, And Continued Fear Of The Virus.** “Powell suggested that would-be workers may be applying for jobs despite lacking the necessary skill set. He also said there could be geographical differences. Another reason for the disparity, Powell said, is that schools aren't open yet – meaning that some people who want to return to the workforce can't because they're still at home taking care of their child. Powell also indicated that some Americans are afraid to return to work due to concerns they may be infected with COVID-19.” [Fox Business, [04/28/21](#)]

**Powell Added That “We Don’t See Wages Moving Up Yet,” And Suggested That Labor Shortages Will Fall As Employers Increase Workers’ Pay.** “‘Clearly there's something going on out there, as many companies are reporting labor shortages,’ he said. ‘We don't see wages moving up yet, and presumably we would see that in a really tight labor market. We may well start to see that.’” [Fox Business, [04/28/21](#)]

**Powell, Appointed As Federal Reserve Chair By Donald Trump, Is “Liked By Both Democrats And Republicans.”** “The president-elect could stick with Powell, liked by both Democrats and Republicans, or choose someone he believes to be more aligned with Democrats’ goals of income equality, climate policy reform and diversity, and whether the person can work well with Biden’s pick to head the Treasury, Janet Yellen. [...] Powell is expected to find a friendlier relationship with Biden than with the man who appointed him as Fed chair, President Donald Trump, who spent years haranguing him through irate Twitter posts.” [CNBC, [12/09/20](#)]

## **Treasury Secretary Yellen Dismissed The Arguments Against The Jobless Benefit, Pointing Out That Job Growth Has Been Strong In Low-Wage Industries Where The Jobless Benefit Should, As The U.S. Chamber Has Claimed, Disincentivize Workers From Returning—Yellen Also Noted That People Are Reluctant To Return To The Workforce Due To A Lack Of Childcare And Continued Fear Of The Virus.**

**Biden Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Dismissed Claims That Unemployment Supplements Were Undermining Employment, Arguing “It's Clear There Are People Who Are Not Ready And Able To Go Back Into The Labor Force,” Due To A Lack Of Childcare And Continued Fear Of The Virus.** “Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen dismissed concerns that sweetened unemployment benefits contributed to a slowdown in hiring last month, instead suggesting that a lack of child care and fears of contracting COVID-19 were the reason for the worse-than-expected April jobs report, which was the biggest miss in history. ‘It's clear there are people who are not ready and able to go back into the labor force,’ Yellen said during a White House press briefing on Friday.” [Fox Business, [05/07/21](#)]

**Secretary Yellen Noted That If The Arguments Against The Unemployment Supplement Were Valid, Then The Leisure And Hospitality Industry—Where Wages Tend To Be Low And The Supplement Would Create The Highest Disincentive For Workers To Return—Wouldn't Have Seen The Robust Growth That It Did.** “But Yellen suggested there were other reasons for one of the worst downside misses in decades – including a lack of in-person learning at schools and concerns among workers about safety related to COVID-19. ‘I don't think that the addition to unemployment compensation is really the factor that's making a difference,’ she said, adding: ‘Caregiving responsibilities are still important reasons people are unable to return to work...Concerns about the pandemic and the health consequences I think remains a factor for many.’ For instance, she noted the bulk of job creation took place in the leisure and hospitality industry, which accounted for some 331,000 workers last month. But Yellen suggested that if sweetened jobless aid were to blame for the lack of job growth, the leisure and hospitality sector – where wages are typically low, and the relative financial benefit to collecting unemployment benefits high – would not have seen its payroll expand so vigorously.” [Fox Business, [05/07/21](#)]

**Labor Secretary Marty Walsh Also Argued That A Lack Of Childcare, Fear Of The Virus, And “Your Business Being Gone” Were To Blame For Slow Employment, Also Pointing Out That April 2021 Was Still “A Good Month” For Job Growth.**

**Biden Labor Secretary Marty Walsh Rejected Claims That Unemployment Supplements Were Undermining Employment, Asserting That “266,000 Jobs Under Normal Circumstances — And We're Certainly Not Living In Normal Circumstances — Would Be A Good Month.”** “After a hugely disappointing April jobs report, U.S. Labor Secretary Marty Walsh rejected claims from Republicans and some businesses that enhanced unemployment benefits are keeping workers from going back to work. The Labor Department reported the U.S economy added back just 266,000 jobs last month, sharply missing economists' expectations of 1 million. ‘266,000 jobs under normal circumstances — and we're certainly not living in normal circumstances — would be a good month,’ said Walsh in an interview with Yahoo Finance Live. ‘We still have a steep hill to climb, but we are recovering in a strong fashion.’” [Yahoo! Finance, [05/07/21](#)]

**Secretary Walsh Added, “I Don't Think The Barrier To Employment Is Unemployment Insurance,” Citing Lack Of Childcare, Vaccine Hesitancy, Fear Of The Virus, And “Your Business Being Gone” As Causes Of Labor Shortages.** “‘We just need to continue to see what the barriers are. I don't think the barrier to employment is unemployment insurance,’ said Walsh. ‘Whether it's childcare, whether it's fear of not being vaccinated, fear of the virus, your business being gone — those are the issues that we have to address, not talk about cutting a benefit for people that are unemployed.’” [Yahoo! Finance, [05/07/21](#)]

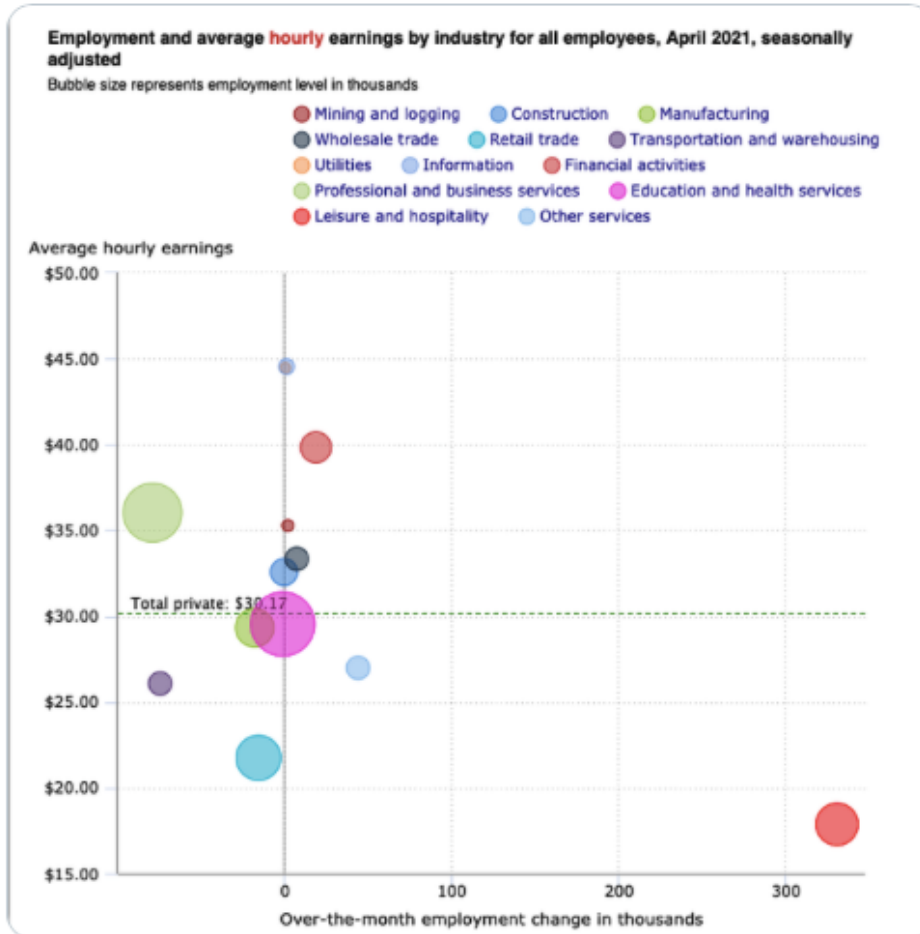
**Nobel Award Winner For Economics Paul Krugman Observed That The Jobless Benefit Didn't Seem To Affect The Low April Numbers, Observing, “If It Was Unemployment Benefits, You'd Expect The Miss To Be Biggest In Low-Wage Sectors, Where UI Has The Biggest Impact.”**



Paul Krugman  
@paulkrugman

...

Nobody is quite sure what lies behind the April jobs miss. Bad seasonal adjustment? Labor supply issues? But if it was unemployment benefits, you'd expect the miss to be biggest in low-wage sectors, where UI has biggest impact. Reality:



8:36 AM · May 10, 2021 · Twitter Web App

[Tweet by Paul Krugman, 05/10/21, accessed [05/11/21](#)]

**Economist And New York Times Columnist Paul Krugman Won The Nobel Prize For Economic Sciences In 2008.** “Paul Krugman joined The New York Times in 1999 as an Op-Ed columnist. He is distinguished professor in the Graduate Center Economics Ph.D. program and distinguished scholar at the Luxembourg Income Study Center at the City University of New York. In addition, he is professor emeritus of Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School. In 2008, Mr. Krugman was the sole recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for his work on international trade theory.” [The New York Times, accessed [05/11/21](#)]

**President Biden Responded To The April Jobs Report By Calling On Businesses To “Do Their Part” To Increase Employment By Offering Workers Better Wages, Benefits, And Safe Workplaces.**

**In Response To The April Jobs Report, President Biden Called On Businesses To “Do Their Part” By Offering More Attractive Wages, Benefits, And “Safe Work Environments.”**

**In Response To The April Jobs Report, President Joe Biden Has Called On Businesses To “Do Their Part” By Increasing Wages And Benefits And Helping Workers To Get Vaccinations.** “Biden’s remarks came in response to a weaker-than-expected April jobs report Friday, after which the U.S. Chamber of Commerce called for a halt to the extra \$300 per week in unemployment benefits as a way to get people back to work. [...] At the same time, the president urged businesses to ‘do their part’ by helping workers get vaccinated and offering attractive wages and benefits—particularly after businesses received over \$1 trillion in federal relief last year.” [Bloomberg Law, [05/10/21](#)]

**“My Expectation Is That, As Our Economy Comes Back, These Companies Will Provide Fair Wages And Safe Work Environments, And If They Do They’ll Find Plenty Of Workers,’ Biden Said.”** [Bloomberg Law, [05/10/21](#)]

**The U.S. Chamber Complained That The Jobless Benefit Pays Americans More Than They Would Earn Through Work, Even Though The Group Has Long Fought Against The \$15 Living Wage And Called It A “Political Number,” Despite An MIT Analysis Showing That Even A \$15 Wage Would Not Cover Expenses For A Typical American Family Of Four.**

**The U.S. Chamber Argued Against The \$300 Jobless Benefit By Arguing That Recipients Take Home More In Unemployment Than They Would From Working...**

**The U.S. Chamber Has Argued That The \$300 Jobless Benefit Results In About One In Four Recipients “Taking Home More In Unemployment Than They Earned Working.”** “Based on the Chamber’s analysis, the \$300 benefit results in approximately one in four recipients taking home more in unemployment than they earned working.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [05/07/21](#)]

**The Average American Receiving Enhanced Weekly Unemployment Payments Is Getting “The Equivalent Of \$17.17 An Hour—More Than Twice The Federal Minimum Wage.”** “\$387. That’s how much the average American receives from their state in weekly unemployment payments, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, which rises to \$687 with the federal boost. Based on a 40-hour workweek, that means the average unemployed American is getting the equivalent of \$17.17 an hour—more than twice the federal minimum wage.” [Forbes, [05/10/21](#)]

**...However, The U.S. Chamber Fought Against Gradually Raising The Minimum Wage To \$15 Just This Year, Calling \$15 A “Political Number,” And Even Putting The Term “Living Wage” In Scare Quotes On Its Main Labor Webpage.**

**February 2021: The U.S. Chamber Was Pitted Against “Labor Unions And Civil Rights Coalitions” In Its “Fierce Lobbying Battle” Against “A Proposal To Gradually Raise The Minimum Wage To \$15.”** “A proposal to gradually raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2025 has triggered a fierce lobbying battle on Capitol Hill, pitting some powerful business groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce against large labor unions and civil rights coalitions.” [Bloomberg Government, [02/16/21](#)]

- **HEADLINE: Minimum Wage Hike Pits Chamber Versus Labor in Congress Fight** [Bloomberg Government, [02/16/21](#)]

**A Senior U.S. Chamber Representative Said, “The \$15 Number Is A Political Number That’s Not Based On A Real Economic Analysis.”** “There’s no reason Congress shouldn’t discuss raising the minimum wage, we just think that the \$15 number is a political number that’s not based on a real economic analysis,” said Glenn Spencer, the senior vice president of the employment policy division at the Chamber. ‘Hopefully we’ll find people who are a little more willing to get something done. Otherwise, we’re back into that ‘15-or-bust’ mentality which results in an increase of zero.” [Bloomberg Government, [02/16/21](#)]

**The U.S. Chamber Celebrated The Failure Of The \$15 Proposal, Which Was Included In A Spending Bill, Arguing “This Bill Was The Wrong Place And \$15 Was The Wrong Number.”** “As observers of the legislative process in Washington know, the Senate recently finished debating a massive, 628-page spending bill, some of which is meant to provide relief for the economic damage caused by the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. [...] While the result of the Senate vote merely prevented the minimum wage from being increased through the recovery bill, it surely will not be the last word on the issue. Nevertheless, it is a good sign that there remains bipartisan support for taking time to carefully consider the many issues surrounding the proposal for a \$15 minimum wage and determine what the right level should really be. It has been a long time since Congress raised the minimum wage, but this bill was the wrong place and \$15 was the wrong number.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [03/09/21](#)]

- **U.S. Chamber HEADLINE: \$15 Minimum Wage Amendment Fails** [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [03/09/21](#)]

**The U.S. Chamber’s Page On Labor Issues Features The Group’s Role In “Exposing The Unions’ Role In The Efforts To Impose A \$15 ‘Living Wage’”—Putting The Term “Living Wage” In Scare Quotes.** “The Chamber’s Employment Policy Division focuses on advancing employer concerns and interests in a wide array of policy debates. From pushing back on flawed OSHA proposed regulations, to exposing the unions’ role in the efforts to impose a \$15 ‘living wage,’ the Chamber is the leading employer voice on matters affecting workplace policy.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [05/11/21](#)]

**The U.S. Chamber Criticized The \$15 Minimum Wage As Early As 2014.** “As this blog reported recently, labor unions and their so-called worker center allies planned a ‘day of protest’ on May 15 as part of their ongoing campaign against employers in the fast food industry. However, despite publicly boasting that the protests would expand to at least 150 cities and more than 30 countries, the real number seems to have fallen well short of organizers’ claims. As part this campaign, worker center groups like Fast Food Forward and Fight for \$15 have crafted a false narrative about the fast food industry, including spurious claims of ‘wage theft,’ and called for an inflated minimum wage of \$15 per hour. Boisterous, made-for-media events like last Thursday’s protests are meant to ratchet up pressure on employers and advance the ultimate issue of union representation.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [05/19/14](#)]

**The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Living Wage Calculator Shows That The Current \$7.25 Minimum Wage Does Not Meet Basic Living Expenses For Single Workers Anywhere In The U.S. And Another MIT Study Has Shown That, Even With A \$15 Minimum Wage, “A Typical Family Of Four Couldn’t Afford The Basics In Any U.S. State.”**

**The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Living Wage Calculator Shows That The Current Federal Minimum Wage Does Not Allow Single Full-Time Workers To Meet Their Basic Expenses Anywhere In The U.S.** “According to MIT’s living wage calculator, the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 isn’t enough for full-time workers to cover their basic expenses in any state in the union. A single person without kids making the federal minimum wage and working full-time, with no time off or vacations, makes about \$3,000 above the poverty line. The minute you start to add in dependents, they fall below it.” [Vox, [04/07/21](#)]



**Another MIT Analysis Found That Even With A \$15 Minimum Wage, “A Typical Family Of Four Couldn’t Afford The Basics In Any U.S. State.”** “Even with a raise to \$15 per hour, a typical family of four couldn’t afford the basics in any U.S. state, according to a CNBC analysis of cost-of-living data assembled by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. (This example assumes two kids and two adults working full-time for minimum pay.) The data weighs costs like food, childcare, health care, housing, transportation and other necessities. It doesn’t include income from safety net programs for the poor.” [CNBC, [02/21/21](#)]

**The Minimum Wage Would Be Over \$12 An Hour Currently If It Had Kept Pace With Inflation Since 1968, The Year Of Its Enactment.** “That translates into an annual income of \$14,500 for a full-time worker. That’s not far above the poverty line for a single person and well below the poverty line of \$21,720 for a family of three. Economists often point out that If the minimum wage had simply kept pace with inflation since 1968, it would be over \$12 an hour today and around \$13.50 by 2025.” [Center for Economic and Policy Research, [02/04/21](#)]

**The Minimum Wage Would Currently Be \$24 An Hour If It Had Kept Pace With Workers’ Productivity Growth.** “If the minimum wage had continued to rise in step with productivity growth, it would have been \$24 an hour last year. By 2025 it would be close to \$30 an hour, roughly twice the level that President Biden targets in his proposal.” [Center for Economic and Policy Research, [02/04/21](#)]

### **The U.S. Chamber’s Chief Policy Officer Even Invoked The Concept Of The “K-Shaped Recovery” To Argue Against The \$15 Minimum Wage Although The Term Has Been Used To Criticize The “Wildly Uneven Recovery” During The Pandemic.**

**The U.S. Chamber’s Chief Policy Officer Argued A \$15 Wage Would Exacerbate “This K-Shaped Recovery, Where So Many Of The Jobs That Have Been Lost Are Those Jobs That Tend To Be On The Lower End Of The Wage Scale.”** “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce also has concerns over the economic damage a \$15 minimum wage could do in the middle of ‘this K-shaped recovery, where so many of the jobs that have been lost are those jobs that tend to be on the lower end of the wage scale,’ said Neil Bradley, chief policy officer at the Chamber.” [The Hill, [01/26/21](#)]

**The Term “K-Shaped Recovery” Arose During “The wildly uneven recovery in the U.S. economy” During The Pandemic, As 11 Million Americans Were Unemployed While Others Gained Wealth From “Surging Stock And House Prices.”** “The wildly uneven recovery in the U.S. economy since Covid-19 began wreaking havoc in early 2020 has given inequality a new shape: K. While nearly 11 million people were unemployed as of November, many other Americans had grown wealthier thanks to surging stock and house prices, spurring the term the ‘K-shaped recovery.’ [...] The diverging strokes of the letter K represent the differing fortunes of the haves and have-nots following the deepest recession in decades. As joblessness surged and many households struggled to pay the bills, plenty of Americans were able to work from home and benefit from a sharp rise in asset values.” [Bloomberg, [12/10/20](#)]

### **A Major Review Of Academic Studies On Minimum Wages Found “The Number Of Jobs Cost By Minimum Wage Laws Is Negligible.”**

**A November 2019 Review Of Studies On Minimum Wages For The British Government—“The Most Comprehensive Recent Summary Of The Literature”—Found “The Number Of Jobs Cost By Minimum Wage Laws Is Negligible.”** “That review of the evidence on minimum wages, conducted by Arindrajit Dube for the British government and released in November 2019, is the most comprehensive recent summary of the literature. Dube, a professor of economics at UMass Amherst and a leading expert on minimum wage laws, has found employment effects, if any, are typically small. In his 2019 review, Dube finds that the average effect on employment across the studies he reviews is very close to zero — that is, in most of the high-quality studies

he reviews, a few outliers aside, the number of jobs cost by minimum wage laws is negligible. In other words, minimum wages raise wages without much downside.” [Vox, [01/22/21](#)]

**Powell, Yellen, And Walsh Pointed Toward A Lack Of Child Care As A Reason For April’s Disappointing Job Growth, But The U.S. Chamber Has Fought Against Biden’s Economic Plans—Which Heavily Emphasize Child Care—And The Tax Increases That Will Fund Them.**

**The U.S. Chamber Acknowledged “Parents Are Struggling To Hold Jobs Without Childcare” In A List Of Priorities It Wanted President Biden To Address In His First Speech To A Joint Session Of Congress.**

**April 27, 2021: In A List Of Priorities The U.S. Chamber Wanted To Hear From President Biden’s First Congressional Address, The Group Said “Parents Are Struggling To Hold Jobs Without Childcare Or While Working From Home While Directing Remote Learning.”** “President Biden is sure to highlight how his administration has contributed to these positive developments as he marks his first 100 days in office later this week. [...] 3. Prioritize workforce in order to keep the economic momentum going. I hear every day, from leaders of businesses large and small, that they struggle to find qualified workers for open jobs. It was the number-one challenge they cited before the pandemic, and it remains a critical concern heading into this recovery. And the recovery will actually stall if we don’t have the workers to drive it. The most immediate way to address our current challenge is to reopen schools and daycares. This is not only an education issue, it’s a workforce issue. Parents are struggling to hold jobs without childcare or while working from home while directing remote learning.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [04/27/21](#)]

**U.S. Chamber HEADLINE: What the Business Community Wants, Needs, and Deserves to Hear from President Biden** [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [04/27/21](#)]

**In The Same List, The U.S. Chamber Demanded That Biden “Reject Job-Killing Tax Hikes That Would Undermine The Recovery,” Focusing On Corporate Taxes In Particular.**

**In The Same List Of Priorities, The U.S. Chamber Called On Biden To “Reject Job-Killing Tax Hikes That Would Undermine The Recovery,” Noting Corporate Taxes In Particular.** “2. Reject job-killing tax hikes that would undermine the recovery. A major reason our economy is poised for such a quick and vigorous recovery is that it was in a place of strength before the shock of the pandemic — thanks in no small part to the historic tax reform of 2017. Now, the administration is pursuing the biggest tax hike in 30 years to fund an ambitious agenda to massively expand the role and reach of government paid for by American job creators. Raising taxes on corporations would sap growth and stall job creation just as it’s picking up speed.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [04/27/21](#)]

**Biden’s American Families Plan, Which Prominently Emphasizes Reducing The Cost Of Child Care, Is A Companion To Biden’s Infrastructure-Focused American Jobs Plan—This “Two Part Package” Is Funded By Raising Corporate Taxes, Eliminating Trump’s Tax Cuts, And Closing Loopholes That “Reward Wealth Over Work.”**

**The Biden Administration’s \$1.8 Trillion American Families Plan—One Aspect Of “His Two-Part Package Of Economic Proposals” Along With His Infrastructure-Focused American Jobs Plan—Prominently Emphasized Reducing The Cost Of Child Care And Supporting Women In The Work Force.** “The Biden administration on Wednesday detailed a \$1.8 trillion collection of spending increases and tax cuts that seeks to expand access to education, reduce the cost of child care and support women in the work force,

financed by additional taxes on high earners. The American Families Plan, as the White House calls it, follows the \$2.3 trillion infrastructure package President Biden introduced last month, bringing his two-part package of economic proposals to just over \$4 trillion.” [The New York Times, [04/28/21](#)]

**While Biden’s American Families Plan Would Be Paid For By “Tax Increases On Wealthy Individuals,” His American Jobs Plan Would Rely On Increasing Corporate Taxes.** “Mr. Biden’s administration has named it the ‘American Jobs Plan,’ echoing the \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief bill that Mr. Biden signed into law this month, the ‘American Rescue Plan.’ On Wednesday, Mr. Biden said the next phase, which he will seek to pay for in part through tax increases on wealthy individuals, would come in a matter of weeks and be known as the “American Family Plan.” [The New York Times, [03/31/21](#)]

- **Under Biden’s American Jobs Plan, “The Bulk Of His Tax Increases Would Come From Corporations Generally.”** “Mr. Biden would fund his spending in part by eliminating tax preferences for fossil fuel producers. But the bulk of his tax increases would come from corporations generally. He would raise the corporate tax rate to 28 percent from 21 percent, partly reversing a cut signed into law by President Donald J. Trump. Mr. Biden would also take a variety of steps to raise taxes on multinational corporations, many of them working within an overhaul of the taxation of profits earned overseas that was included in Mr. Trump’s tax law in 2017.” [The New York Times, [03/31/21](#)]

**The U.S. Chamber Stated, “We Strongly Oppose The General Tax Increases Proposed By The Administration.”** “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Business Roundtable, and other business lobbies say they strongly oppose raising the corporate income tax rate to 28% from 21% to pay for the \$2.25 trillion infrastructure plan that Biden unveiled on Wednesday. They want to see a user-fee model for raising money for improvements. ‘We strongly oppose the general tax increases proposed by the administration, which will slow the economic recovery and make the U.S. less competitive globally -- the exact opposite of the goals of the infrastructure plan,’ Neil Bradley, executive vice president and chief policy officer of the U.S. Chamber, said in a statement.” [Bloomberg, [03/31/21](#)]

**U.S. Chamber HEADLINE: U.S. Chamber Opposes Tax Hikes That Would Hurt Economic Growth, Competitiveness and Job Creation** [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [04/07/21](#)]

**The Chamber Planned To Have Member Companies “Engage Directly With Lawmakers” To Oppose Raising The Corporate Tax.** “The chamber plans to have its member companies engage directly with lawmakers to provide real-life examples of what an increase in the corporate tax rate would mean for their firms, such as not opening a new manufacturing facility, according to a person familiar with the chamber’s plans.” [Bloomberg, [03/31/21](#)]

**The U.S. Chamber Foundation Issued A Report On “The Importance of Child Care to U.S. Families and Businesses,” With A Senior Official Stating, “Childcare Is The Foundation Of Our Economy.”**

**U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Foundation HEADLINE: The Importance of Childcare to U.S. Families and Businesses** [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [12/15/20](#)]

**After “Synthesizing Months Of Research,” The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Foundation Issued A Report On The Difficulties The Pandemic Posed For Childcare.** “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation today released a new report, ‘Piecing Together Solutions: The Importance of Childcare to U.S. Families and Businesses,’ synthesizing months of research that examined the difficulties the COVID-19 pandemic has created in relation to childcare, and the hard choices parents, employers, and policymakers have had to make.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [12/15/20](#)]

**A U.S. Chamber Foundation Senior Vice President Said, “Childcare Is The Foundation Of Our Economy.”** “Childcare is the foundation of our economy, enabling the more than 14 million parents with young children to participate in the workforce,’ said Cheryl Oldham, senior vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [12/15/20](#)]

**The U.S. Chamber Called Biden’s Infrastructure Plan To Create Millions Of Jobs “Dangerously Misguided” For Its Modest Corporate Tax Increases, Even As The Construction And Manufacturing Sectors Were Still Experiencing Flat Or Declining Job Growth In April 2020.**

**The U.S. Chamber Called Biden’s American Jobs Plan To Create Millions Of Jobs Through Infrastructure Investment “Dangerously Misguided,” Primarily For Its Modest Corporate Tax Increases.**

**March 31, 2020: The U.S. Chamber Called Biden’s American Jobs Plan “Dangerously Misguided,” Focusing Its Criticisms On Biden’s Tax Increases.** “The US Chamber of Commerce criticized President Joe Biden’s \$2 trillion infrastructure plan on Wednesday, calling the proposed way it would be funded ‘dangerously misguided.’ ‘Properly done, a major investment in infrastructure today is an investment in the future, and like a new home, should be paid for over time — say 30 years — by the users who benefit from the investment,’ the group said. ‘We strongly oppose the general tax increases proposed by the administration which will slow the economic recovery and make the U.S. less competitive globally — the exact opposite of the goals of the infrastructure plan.’ Biden’s proposal, called the American Jobs Plan, is set to be unveiled at an event in Pittsburgh on Wednesday before then moving into negotiations in Congress.” [Business Insider, [03/31/21](#)]

**Biden Characterized His American Jobs Plan As “A Once-In-A-Generation Investment In America” That Would Create Millions Of Jobs That Would Rebuild 20,000 Miles Of Roads, Among Other Projects.**

“President Biden introduced a \$2 trillion plan on Wednesday to overhaul and upgrade the nation’s infrastructure, calling it a transformational effort that could create the ‘most resilient, innovative economy in the world.’ ‘It is not a plan that tinkers around the edges,’ Mr. Biden said in a speech outside Pittsburgh. ‘It is a once-in-a-generation investment in America.’ White House officials said the proposal’s combination of spending and tax credits would translate into 20,000 miles of rebuilt roads, repairs to the 10 most economically important bridges in the country, the elimination of lead pipes from the nation’s water supplies and a long list of other projects intended to create millions of jobs in the short run and strengthen American competitiveness in the long run.” [The New York Times, [03/31/21](#)]

**The Administration Proposed Increasing The Corporate Tax Rate From 21% To 28%.** “Under the infrastructure and jobs plan, the corporate tax rate would jump from 21% to 28%.” [USA Today, [04/28/21](#)]

- **"The Corporate Tax Rate Had Been Cut Under President Donald J. Trump From 35 Percent To 21 Percent."** [New York Times, [03/30/21](#)]

**The April 2021 Jobs Report Showed Flat Or Declining Employment In The Construction And Manufacturing Sectors—Both Of Which Were Still Suffering From Hundreds Of Thousands Lost Jobs Since The Pandemic Began.**

**The April 2021 Jobs Report Showed That Construction Employment Did Not Grow And The Sector Had 196,000 Fewer Jobs Than In February 2020, Before The Pandemic.** “Employment in construction was unchanged over the month. Employment in the industry is up by 917,000 over the year but is 196,000 below its February 2020 level.” [Bureau of Labor Statistics, [05/07/21](#)]

**The April 2021 Jobs Report Showed That Manufacturing Employment “Edged Down” By 18,000 And The Sector Had 515,000 Fewer Jobs Than In February 2020, Before The Pandemic.** “Manufacturing employment edged down in April (-18,000), following gains in the previous 2 months (+54,000 in March and +35,000 in February). In April, job losses in motor vehicles and parts (-27,000) and in wood products (-7,000) more than offset job gains in miscellaneous durable goods manufacturing (+13,000) and chemicals (+4,000). Employment in manufacturing is 515,000 lower than in February 2020.” [Bureau of Labor Statistics, [05/07/21](#)]

**Prominent Senators Echoed The U.S. Chamber’s Arguments Against The Chamber After Benefitting From Hundreds Of Thousands From The Group—Most Notably, Sen. Pat Toomey Blamed April’s Jobs Report On Jobless Benefits After Benefitting From Nearly \$513,000 In Chamber Spending.**

**Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) Echoed The U.S. Chamber’s Arguments Against The Jobless Benefit And \$15 Wage After Benefitting From Nearly \$513,000 In Political Contributions And Independent Expenditures From The Group.**

**Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA):** “‘Systematically Paying Unemployment Benefits That Are More Than A Person Makes Working Doesn’t Create An Environment That’s Particularly Conducive To Going Back To Work.’” “Systematically paying unemployment benefits that are more than a person makes working doesn’t create an environment that’s particularly conducive to going back to work,’ Senator Pat Toomey, a Pennsylvania Republican, told Fox News in a Friday interview.” [Newsweek, [05/07/21](#)]

**Sen. Toomey:** “‘The CBO Has Confirmed What We Already Knew: A Universal And Arbitrary Federal \$15-Per-Hour Minimum Wage Will Destroy Jobs Across The Country.’” [Sen. Pat Toomey, [02/08/21](#)]

**The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Has Spent \$500,150 On Independent Expenditures In Support Of Pat Toomey.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [05/11/21](#)]

**The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce PAC Has Given \$12,500 To Pat Toomey’s Political Committees.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [05/11/21](#)]

**Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) Echoed The U.S. Chamber’s Jobless Benefit Argument After Taking \$10,000 From The Group For His 2016 Presidential Run.**

**Sen Marco Rubio (R-FL):** “‘I Hear From #Smallbusiness Everyday That They Can’t Hire People Because The Government Is Paying Them To Not Go Back To Work.’” “Senator Marco Rubio (R., Fla.) shared a similar sentiment in a tweet Friday: ‘Why is anyone surprised that the jobs reports fell short of expectations? I hear from #smallbusiness everyday that they can’t hire people because the government is paying them to not go back to work.’” [Yahoo! News, [05/10/21](#)]

**The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce PAC Gave \$10,000 To Marco Rubio’s Presidential Campaign In 2016.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [05/11/21](#)]

**Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE) Echoed The U.S. Chamber’s Claims Against The Jobless Benefit After Taking \$5,000 From Its PAC.**

**Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE):** “‘Bad Federal Policy Is Making Unemployment Pay More Than Work And Millions Of Jobs Aren’t Getting Filled.’” “Republican Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska said Mr. Biden ‘is all over the place on unemployment insurance.’ ‘He wants to go after folks who are gaming the system, but he’s denying the reality that his policies are making the situation worse, so he’s trying to make struggling businesses the boogeymen,’ Mr. Sasse said. ‘Bad federal policy is making unemployment pay more than work and millions of jobs aren’t getting filled. President Biden and his party were warned this would happen, but they doubled down on bad policy. Instead of making unemployment pay more than work, we ought to convert the emergency unemployment payments into signing bonuses.’” [InsuranceNewsNet, [05/11/21](#)]

**The U.S. Chamber of Commerce PAC Has Given \$5,000 To Ben Sasse's Political Committee.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [05/11/21](#)]