

Center for American Progress



Segmented End-of-Year Donor Email from CAP's President

By Elena Berger

From Center for American Progress

Subject line: CAP Big Idea: Prosperity for All

This December, I'm reaching out to CAP supporters like you to highlight the bold ideas we've worked on this year and will continue to work on as we enter this election year. If you stand with us in the belief that progressive values must be front and center as we debate the issues in 2016, please make a tax-deductible donation to CAP today.

No issue is more central to progressive values than the economy. It's no secret that middle-class Americans are working harder than ever before, yet still falling farther behind, as our own analysis demonstrates. While wages have barely budged, the costs of essentials like health care and childcare have continued to rise, squeezing families in the middle. That's why CAP has been working on innovative ways to bring down the cost of the foundations of a middle-class life while also raising incomes. CAP raised awareness about this issue in its seminal reports last year on the middle-class squeeze and our Inclusive Prosperity Commission Report.

Child care is one expense quickly becoming unaffordable for families. The cost of child care now tops the annual cost of tuition and fees for a public four-year university in 31 states. This year CAP offered a bold new proposal that completely revamps how the federal government invests in child care: a tax credit that would provide up to \$14,000 per child to reflect the rising cost of high-quality child care. CAP has also done extensive work on protecting and modernizing supports such as the Child Tax Credit, which could play a critical role in helping parents with young children. And our new idea for a "young child tax credit" for families with children under 3 would help defray the high cost of the necessities of child-rearing for low- and middle-income families.

Spending on prescription drugs is growing at a faster rate than spending on any other health care service. Patients in need of expensive medications often will pay thousands of dollars per month. But all consumers end up paying more for health care because of these high prices, which drive up premiums and cost sharing for everyone. CAP's proposal this year to rein in the cost of prescription drugs will also bring down the cost of health care overall. This new package of reforms would broaden the impact of research, lower costs for prescription drugs throughout the system, and offer greater financial protection for those Americans whose lives and health depend on these medications.

These proposals to bring down costs for average families go hand in hand with CAP's efforts to raise wages and economic prospects for all Americans. Part of that effort is identifying the factors that affect

mobility. Recent CAP work has shown that areas of the country with higher union membership also have higher levels of economic mobility. We also released a report this summer outlining policies to promote broad-based profit sharing and inclusive capitalism. The report explores in depth ways to encourage more companies to adopt employee ownership programs and other types of profit sharing policies to help ensure that workers are rewarded for the wealth they generate.

Thanks to your support, CAP is able to continue to lift up this type of research and propose the big ideas that will shape the debate about inequality and mobility in our country over the next year. Please donate today to help us put our ideas to work.

Thank you,

Neera Tanden
President and CEO, Center for American Progress

Subject line: CAP Big Idea: Education for All

This December, I'm reaching out to CAP supporters like you to highlight the bold ideas we've worked on this year and will continue to work on as we enter this election year. If you stand with us in the belief that progressive values must be front and center as we debate the issues in 2016, please make a tax-deductible donation to CAP today.

Education in America is one of the most challenging and important issues to tackle for the future of our country. For nearly a year, CAP—together with the teacher, civil rights, business, and education communities—worked with Congress to move an education bill that better serves all students, particularly those who are most disadvantaged. Our research and collaborative efforts have helped lead to bipartisan legislation that will move us past the outdated No Child Left Behind. The legislation is closely aligned with principles that our education experts have developed.

Our work in this area has led CAP to examine the whole teaching profession as a central factor in student outcomes. Every day, we ask teachers to meet 21st century challenges and demands while working in an 18th century system. At the same time, we face the prospect of teacher shortages as Baby Boomers retire and young people choose better compensated and more competitive fields. Understanding the need for systemic change, CAP organized more than 40 high-level partners to launch the TeachStrong coalition in October, which aims to shift the national education policy conversation and make modernizing and elevating the teaching profession the nation's number one education policy priority.

Preparing our students for the world doesn't end with high school. To achieve inclusive prosperity and broad-based economic growth, the country must take bold steps to eliminate barriers to higher education and ensure that a college degree remains within reach for all students. CAP's visionary plan released this year, College for All, represents a significant step toward improving college-attainment among students from low- and moderate-income families, while simplifying the country's overall financial aid system.

CAP's groundbreaking work in education would not be possible without your support. Please donate today to help us build on our progress in 2016.

Thank you,

Neera Tanden
President and CEO, Center for American Progress

Subject line: CAP Big Idea: Equality for All

This December, I'm reaching out to CAP supporters like you to highlight the bold ideas we've worked on this year and will continue to work on as we enter this election year. If you stand with us in the belief that progressive values must be front and center as we debate the issues in 2016, please make a tax-deductible donation to CAP today.

In a landmark decision in June, the Supreme Court ruled that LGBT couples have the constitutional right and the freedom to marry. Here at CAP, we could not be more proud to have contributed to the successful campaign for marriage equality through our research and storytelling. We also know that the story doesn't end there. Although same-sex couples can now legally marry in every state, in a majority of U.S. states, LGBT Americans also can be legally fired, denied housing, or discriminated against in other areas of life just for being who they are or loving who they love. That's why we continue to pour our efforts into pushing for comprehensive nondiscrimination legislation at the national level. There's a lot of work left to be done, and we believe we have the expertise and networks to do it.

We also believe the time has come to create a justice system that treats all Americans in a fair and equitable way. Nearly 1 in 3 Americans now has some type of criminal record, which erects barriers to employment, housing, education, and many other pathways to opportunity. Mass incarceration and overcriminalization have particularly affected communities of color, which make up more than 60 percent of the population behind bars. CAP has taken an active role in raising awareness about the urgent need for reform, developing policy recommendations and organizing events with advocates and policymakers to explore the issue.

Additionally, CAP has continued to make women's equality and economic security a central part of our work this year. We have battled for better paid leave policies, which would help women stay in the workplace during crucial career-building years, strengthening the leadership pipeline and helping women achieve parity with their male colleagues. We have drawn attention to the need for higher livable wages, equal pay for equal work, and policies to help working mothers. And we've fought back against the use of religious liberty to infringe on the rights of women.

We are proud of the role we've played in making progress and moving history forward. Please donate today to help us do even more in 2016.

Thank you,

Neera Tanden
President and CEO, Center for American Progress

Subject line: CAP Big Idea: A Better World for All

This December, I'm reaching out to CAP supporters like you to highlight the bold ideas we've worked on this year and will continue to work on as we enter this election year. If you stand with us in the belief that progressive values must be front and center as we debate the issues in 2016, please make a tax-deductible donation to CAP today.

We all want to live in a world where our families are safe—safe from violence and war, as well as from the effects of climate change. CAP has been at the forefront of the push for energy policy that meets both environmental and economic needs. Our research on the growing risks of extreme weather events, the changing arctic climate, and the need for adopting a clean power plan, and more, have cemented our place as a leading voice for common sense change. At the same time, our energy and environment experts have worked closely with our national security analysts, faith team, and others at CAP to approach the problem of climate change from a multidisciplinary point of view.

One of the most momentous victories this year was the passage of a nuclear deal with Iran. Representing a historic achievement for the U.S. and its partners, the deal included important criteria first laid out by CAP earlier this year. By resolving the Iranian nuclear issue for at least a decade, the United States is in an even stronger position to oppose Iran's other destabilizing behavior in the Middle East and around the world. Now the hard work of monitoring and verification begins. CAP will play an important role there as well.

Sadly, CAP's work to end gun violence continues, as high-profile shootings plague our communities. Early in the year, President Obama announced that he will consider using executive authority to end a loophole that allowed high-volume sellers to avoid performing background checks. CAP has been pushing for this and for other common-sense proposals for years. And we will continue to work with members of Congress and the White House on a comprehensive proposal to keep Americans safe from gun violence.

I'm proud to say that CAP has helped to make our world a better, safer place this year, as it has since we opened our doors over a decade ago. Please donate today to help us continue our important work.

Thank you,

Neera Tanden
President and CEO, Center for American Progress