



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Build Back Better. Do We Choose Poverty by Our Votes and Actions?

“**Poverty is a policy choice.** Our elected officials have the tools and financial resources to address the economic injustices communities across America are facing. The problem is they sometimes lack the political courage and moral conviction to act....

Decades of intentional underinvestment in families and communities have perpetuated socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, and cultural disparities. For example, in 2017, Congress enacted historic tax cuts for the rich and major corporations that inflated our deficit by over one trillion dollars. Since then, Americans have struggled to make ends meet, a situation worsened by a deadly pandemic.

There has been a lot of discussion around the Build Back Better Act. **This historic and restorative piece of legislation honors the inherent dignity and worth of our families in rural, urban, and suburban communities who have been devastated by COVID-19's impact on top of decades of being under-resourced and under-served.**

You may have heard talk of the cost of the package—\$1.75 trillion dollars. But the high number is not the issue at hand. In 2017, Congress passed tax cuts for the wealthiest 1 percent and profitable corporations that will add another \$3.9 trillion to our national debt. Just last month, Congress passed a defense spending bill totaling \$768 billion dollars. Combined, that is nearly \$5 trillion dollars of debt. **Why is it that our country can increase the wealth of those who have more than enough and purchase instruments of war, but can't tend to those who need resources and support to thrive?**

The Build Back Better Act would drastically improve the quality of life for millions of families. **From health care to housing, childcare to our environment, Congress can make the decision to help all Americans regardless of who they voted for, what they look like, or where they live.** This bill would provide families and individuals with the resources necessary to actualize their full potential as beloved children made in the image of God—Imago Dei.

Sojourners has created a [fact sheet](#) highlighting major provisions of the bill and what it would mean for millions of Americans—including you and your loved ones. We will be advocating for a version of Build Back Better to pass. Will you join us in making God's Kin-dom come by learning more about this bill, praying for our members of Congress to have the courage to act with conscience, and committing to [call them](#) to express your support for a life-sustaining Build Back Better option?” (Lauren W. Reliford, MSW, Political Director, **Sojourners**)

“As President Biden prepares to deliver his first State of the Union address on March 1st, we need to remind him to keep focused on the common good and the ‘far-sighted environmental agenda’. Please join people of faith around the country in [signing a petition](#), developed by our partners at Interfaith Power & Light, that urges President Biden to keep his promise to take meaningful action on climate, justice, and clean energy. The petition also will be delivered to members of Congress.” (**Sisters of Mercy Justice Team**, 2/16/22)