

NCDA

Inspiring Careers * Empowering Lives

4/5/21 Weekly Washington Update

Headlines to Know

- Last week Biden released his \$2T American Jobs Plan, one of the largest in history. Biden's primary emphasis in the plan is addressing the issue of Climate Change and creating jobs. Many unions fear that Biden's plan will lose many fossil fuels and coal mining jobs. Biden's plan includes much-needed allocations to broadband connectivity in rural areas and other underserved areas. A few of the pieces of the plan include \$621B for Transportation and Resilience, \$111B for Water Systems, \$180B for R+D Manufacturing and Job Training, and an additional \$100B for Workforce Development.
- New York City has passed a bill to legalize marijuana. Over the last few years, states have begun to pass bills loosening restrictions on marijuana use and possession, though federally, there's been little movement in that direction. For many, the legalization of marijuana means reconciling with the communities that have been disproportionately impacted by its prior criminalization. New York City's bill includes a 40% reinvestment of excess revenues from marijuana sales into the public education, drug treatment, and prevention and education systems of these communities.
- President Biden is delayed in releasing his discretionary funding request, which was expected last week. When this document is finally released, perhaps sometime this week, it will represent just an idea of what is to be expected from the complete budget arriving later this Spring.

Other News to Know

- New Jersey senator Cory Booker is pushing for the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit changes that were made to provide relief through the pandemic to become permanent. He wants to "join our industrial peers and invest in America's children." The American Rescue Plan provided relief to many sectors, and the debate is ongoing as to which elements of relief should stay temporary, phasing out as the end of the pandemic appears on the horizon, and which changes ought to be adopted as a more permanent policy.
- President Biden is attempting to reframe migration and change the views of the American people in the process. His plan to recognize and address the "root causes" of migration surges, rather than focusing on the more plainly visible effects, will take several decades of continued effort, with the hope of fundamentally changing the ways in which Americans think about the complexities of migration.
- An error by Emergent, a vaccine manufacturer whose Maryland facility was processing both AstraZeneca and Johnson and Johnson vaccines, resulted in

Other News to Know *(continued)*

the contamination of 15 million Johnson and Johnson Covid-19 vaccine doses. President Biden stepped in to both remove AstraZeneca from the facility and appoint Johnson and Johnson as overseer of the operations. While these types of errors in vaccine manufacturing are not terribly uncommon, they do not help to instill confidence in the safety and efficacy of the vaccine.

This Week on Capitol Hill

Schedule of Floor Activity

- The House and the Senate will not be in session again until April 12th.