

ECONOMIC UPDATE

June 24, 2022

Economic Issue in Focus: Today's Supreme Court Decision Will Have Devastating Economic Consequences for Women and the Broader Economy

Today's Supreme Court decision to roll back decades of precedent set by *Roe v. Wade* overturns the fundamental rights of pregnant people to control their bodies, health and futures. In addition to restricting bodily autonomy and individual agency to make personal healthcare decisions, this ruling will pose significant economic harm to those who are unable to access abortions and to the broader economy.

Access to safe and legal abortion increases women's workforce and educational opportunities, and the ability to delay motherhood by one year because of that access led to 11% higher wages for women on average. [One study](#) found that being denied an abortion increases negative public records, such as bankruptcies and evictions, by more than 81%.

Access to safe, legal abortion has also helped to address child poverty. [One study](#) found that the number of children who grow up in poverty could increase by 0.54 percentage points if abortion is banned, harming well-being and contributing to worse life outcomes.

By placing unnecessary and overburdensome restrictions on people seeking abortions, which have no basis in medical science and imperil pregnant people's health and well-being, local economies lose out on \$105 billion per year. If these unnecessary restrictions were eliminated, U.S. GDP would be almost 0.5% higher.

The overwhelming body of evidence makes clear that today's decision to deny access to safe and legal abortion will have far-reaching consequences for the individuals directly impacted, their communities and the whole economy.

Key Economic Indicator To Track

- **The Number of Americans Receiving Unemployment Insurance Reached the Lowest Level Since 1970:** The four-week moving average of Americans receiving unemployment insurance benefits has reached the lowest level since 1970. For the week ending June 18, the [number](#) of Americans who filed new claims for unemployment insurance was 229,000. This is over 71% lower than when President Biden took office and is indicative of a strong labor market where Americans are able to find jobs.

JEC Spotlight: The American Rescue Plan Helped To Expand Health Insurance Access for 6 Million Americans

During President Biden's first year in office, [5.8 million Americans](#) newly enrolled in ACA plans. This increase in enrollment was largely due to passage of the American Rescue Plan (ARP), which significantly expanded premium subsidies that help low- and middle-income families afford health insurance. These enhanced premium tax credits, set to end in December 2022, put caps on the amount that any family will pay in premiums as a set percentage of their income, meaning that many families can get **insurance for \$0 a month in premiums**.

On average, the Rescue Plan helped Americans on ACA plans **save \$67 a month** on health insurance premiums—a total of more than **\$800 per person each year**.

The JEC and the House Committee on Ways and Means released state and congressional district-level [breakdowns](#) of the number of people who were able to get health insurance on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace under President Biden, as a result of the American Rescue Plan's enhanced insurance premium subsidies.

Selected JEC Resources

- [*Democrats Are Working to Fight Inflation, Lower Costs and Address Supply Shortages*](#)
- [*Oil Companies Are Enjoying Market Influence and Record Profits, While U.S. Families Foot the Bill for High Gas and Energy Prices*](#)
- [*The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funds a Historic Effort To Remove Lead Pipes That Threaten Public Health and the Economy*](#)
- [*State-by-State Fact Sheets: May Employment Data*](#)
- [*Unions Provide Major Economic Benefits for Workers and Families*](#)
- [*Congress and the Biden Administration Are Putting Policies in Place to Continue the Strong Wage Gains Workers Experienced in 2021*](#)

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