



**National
Urban League**

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

November 5, 2021

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Urban League and 91 Urban League affiliates across 36 states and the District of Columbia, I write in support of passage of H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and H.R. 5376, the Build Back Better Act (BBBA).

IIJA will create 650,000 new, high-skill, high-paying jobs and invest in American workers and communities – rebuilding our infrastructure while helping rebuild the middle class. In addition to making significant investments to upgrade our water infrastructure, improve air quality, and reduce pollution levels in communities of color, we are pleased that these bills include commitments to increase broadband affordability, digital inclusion, and minority owned business development. Specifically, the bill includes \$65 billion to increase access to broadband in hard-to-reach rural communities and low-income urban areas, with \$14 billion for the Affordable Connectivity Program that provides a \$30 monthly benefit to participating households, and \$2.75 billion for digital equity and inclusion programs. The legislation also provides funding to support minority-owned small businesses, including those hardest-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, by making the Minority Business Development Agency permanent and by allocating funding to minority business development grants for community and national nonprofit organizations.

BBBA includes historic commitments to our children, families, and communities to ensure a more equitable economic future for all. The bill's investments in affordable childcare, paid family and medical leave, and universal pre-k will ensure working families can afford the support they need to care for a child or a sick loved one. BBBA also provides resources that will increase access to affordable housing and homeownership opportunities including federal down-payment assistance to help mortgage-ready first-generation homebuyers build sustainable wealth and funding to help build and rehabilitate more than 1 million affordable homes. Moreover, this legislation supports minority-owned businesses by increasing funding to support entrepreneurial business development programs for justice-involved individuals as well as women and minority-owned small businesses nationwide. BBBA's investments in workforce development, registered apprenticeships, and job training programs will connect workers to good-paying jobs and bring more people into the middle class. And the BBBA's expansion of the Affordable Care Act and Medicare will help low-income individuals and seniors afford access to high quality health care and bring us one step closer to eliminating racial health disparities.

Both BBBA and IJA are key components of the Build Back Better agenda that will help address systemic racial inequality and lead us toward a more equitable recovery for all -- workers, families, and communities. We urge you to pass these important bills when they come to the floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "marc morial", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

CC: House of Representative Chiefs of Staff and Legislative Directors