1 BUILDING THE NEXT AMERICAN CHAPTER

Some Assembly Required

- 1x Blue
- 3x White
- 4x Red
- 3x White
- 3x Red
- 50x White
At the Bipartisan Policy Center, we are *all talk and all action*. 

We are **proud partisans**; Democrats and Republicans *working together* on all sorts of issues...

...because we believe that no political party has a monopoly on the **best ideas**.

bipartisanpolicy.org
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The Annual Report Issue ’16 - ’17
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Former Senate Majority Leader

Tom Daschle
Former Senate Majority Leader

Bob Dole
Former Senate Majority Leader

Bipartisan Policy Center

bipartisanpolicy.org
2017 marks the Bipartisan Policy Center’s 10th anniversary. For a decade, BPC has worked to find actionable solutions to America’s major policy challenges. BPC has debated differences, forged hard-fought compromises, and found consensus on issues critical to all Americans.

The Bipartisan Policy Center was launched on March 6, 2007, at Union Station in Washington, D.C. From the beginning, BPC has been animated by a few core ideas: that America’s inspiration flows from our nation’s unparalleled political and cultural diversity; that our nation’s political stability and resilience depend on engaging and dignifying our differences; and finally, that politics, like all productive human interaction, is about the integrity of ideas, personal connection, and trust.

With just 15 staff and three policy projects—the National Commission on Energy Policy, the National Security Initiative, and the 21st Century Agriculture Policy Project—BPC got to work carving out space for productive partisan dialogue.

A decade later, BPC has 90 staff working to support federal and state leaders who are committed to evidence-based deliberation and pragmatic, collaborative solutions. Despite the polarization in American politics, BPC has had numerous successes over the past decade contributing to bipartisan achievements on issues ranging from accelerating medical cures and energy breakthroughs, to implementing effective financial sector reforms, to reforming the Social Security Disability Insurance program, and avoiding a breach of the national debt limit.

Jason Grumet
President, Bipartisan Policy Center
@JasonGrumet
The Bipartisan Policy Center was founded under the simple notion that we must work to understand and dignify our differences in order to develop resilient public policy. This view has propelled our organization to generate pragmatic, creative, and durable policy solutions. American democracy is under tremendous strain, but there are real opportunities to make progress and draw strength from our diversity.

— BPC President Jason Grumet
Q. It feels like we can’t escape a news cycle without being inundated with partisan squabbles. Is bipartisanship still relevant in this political environment?

Keating: “Conflict and combat sell newspapers. But you have to have Republicans and Democrats at the state legislative level and the U.S. Congress come together and solve problems. Which is why you need a highly credible bipartisan organization like BPC.”

Grumet: “It’s understandable that many Americans have lost faith in our political process, but the answer to bad politics is good politics. The strength of this country has always been the capacity to reconcile legitimate differences. We need to acknowledge, respect, and engage the sources of our policy disagreements. Bipartisanship isn’t simply relevant, it is the only way to govern a free and diverse country.”

Q. If we agree that bipartisanship is necessary for our institutions to actually govern, how does BPC help bring these sides together?

Grumet: “What differentiates BPC from many ‘good government’ organizations is that we are aggressively bipartisan—we like the good fight. Our projects spend a lot of time creating a fact base upon which people can have a constructive disagreement and then we follow through. We actually take these hard-earned ideas and proposals and drive them into the political process.

“We pride ourselves on bringing together people with strong, visceral, and informed views who also have the mutual respect to sit down and listen to each other’s opinions. It’s the reconciliation of differences that has always given us resilient public policy.”

We are aggressively bipartisan—we like the good fight.

BPC President Jason Grumet
Q. So how is bipartisan policy formed? Has there been any success lately?

Keating: “The legislative process is not making popcorn! It takes time, personal investment, and a lot of gray matter. For example, recently Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) introduced the Financial CHOICE Act which was an amalgam of reform ideas about what to do about Dodd-Frank. A number of things in there came from the debate and report of BPC’s Financial Regulatory Reform Initiative. So you won’t win everything, but that’s an example of leadership by this organization that will result in very good things.”

Grumet: “Despite the challenges of the last couple of years, Congress actually produced a couple dozen pieces of meaningful legislation and we were delighted to have a role in some of them.

“The 21st Century Cures Act was a bipartisan effort that combined resources for cutting-edge medical research and development with a streamlined Food and Drug Administration approval process so that new breakthroughs can be brought to market and save people’s lives. The act was one of the major achievements of last year and we were proud to work with Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) to make that happen.”

Q. That sounds promising! What bipartisan opportunities do you think there are under this administration and Congress?

Grumet: “We need Congress to step back and recognize if we want durable public policy we are going to have to take the best ideas from both parties. There are real places where many in Congress and the White House want to make progress: infrastructure investment, early child development, tax policy, and legislation that addresses the aging population and chronic care are just a few examples.”

Q. Are you optimistic about whether bipartisanship will thrive in the coming years?

Keating: “Yes, as a result of the tremendous leadership of those who have gone before us, we have an obligation to continue working together to solve our problems. It’s not supposed to be easy, but compared to the 19th century we are in pretty tall clover.”
WHAT THEY’RE SAYING...

As a **10-YEAR SUPPORTER OF THE BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER**, Chevron has seen firsthand BPC’s unique impact on both sides of the political aisle—no matter who’s in power. We’re proud to work with BPC to advance American energy security and grow our economy.

— Maria Pica Karp  
Vice President and General Manager of Government Affairs, Chevron

**BPC is a vital institution.** It has done a great number of things in the last 10 years and in their 10th anniversary is doing important work on health care… I couldn’t commend you more for taking on that initiative.

— Dallas Salisbury  
President and CEO, Employee Benefit Research Institute

The work that comes out of BPC, because it is **COLLABORATIVE IN NATURE**, leads by example and the policy products show that even when you put different opinions in the room you end up with a stronger and more robust set of solutions than if it was just one side or the other.

— Capri Cafaro  
Former Democratic State Senator from Ohio

“I’m excited to affiliate w the great ppl at @BPC_Bipartisan. They are trusted & have a history of caring about real solutions.”

— ANDY SLAVITT @ASLAVITT  
Former Acting Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Awesome info regarding the travel EO and vetting by the U.S. Hear the truth & check it out @BPC_Bipartisan #BPClive

— Natasha Arnsprieter @NatashaArnpri

— ANDY SLAVITT @ASLAVITT  
Former Acting Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Awesome info regarding the travel EO and vetting by the U.S. Hear the truth & check it out @BPC_Bipartisan #BPClive
Fake news and a lack of strong cooperation along bipartisan lines make it difficult to follow what is going on. BPC’s programs are essential to me, so that I keep up to date. Thank you for consistently great work.

— BPC event attendee

The 21st Century Cures Act is an important example of bipartisan action spurred in part by recommendations from outside organizations like the Bipartisan Policy Center, and despite the divisiveness of the presidential election, Congress was able to come together and pass legislation that will help virtually every American family.

— Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)

For those of us disenchanted with the regression of consensus-building politics in Washington, it’s important to support groups like BPC that are attempting to move us in a better direction.

— Keith Wilson

Supporter

There are many opinions on how to improve our health system. Regardless of your position, we cannot lose sight of the patient who is at the center of our national debate. BPC offers an excellent forum for bringing all parties together to find consensus on how to make America’s health system better. BPC’s leadership and staff understand this and that is why Dignity Health chose to become a member of the Health System Executive Council.

— Lloyd Dean

CEO, Dignity Health

“Our youth needs a realistic pathway to financial independence. Great to speak at @BPC_Bipartisan’s higher education event today.”

— SEN. TIM SCOTT (R-SC)

@SENATORTIMSCOTT

Kudos to @BPC_Bipartisan for highlighting the issue and taking a leadership stance in recent healthy aging report.

“Tonight was one of inspiration and reflection. @BPC_Bipartisan celebrated 10 years of ‘productive partisanship’. An honor to work w you!”

— COLETTE D. HONORABLE @CHONORABLEFERC

Great discussion today at @BPC_Bipartisan on how Admin is making huge strides in incorporating evidence into all parts of decision-making.

Proud to join @BPC_Bipartisan this morning to talk about how we can improve rural health.
OUR IMPACT

The Bipartisan Policy Center enjoys a reputation as a fair arbiter of partisan differences and a promoter of achievable policy solutions. Over the last year, BPC has successfully brought together members from both sides of the aisle to foster collaboration and advance bipartisan debate and solutions, while our affiliated 501(c)(4) organization, BPC Action, has successfully influenced meaningful legislation.

FOSTERING COLLABORATION ON THE HILL

Our regular Senate Legislative Directors series has brought together staff from 52 offices since June 2016—ranging across the political spectrum from the most conservative Republicans to the most liberal Democrats. At the beginning of this Congress, BPC hosted a half-day retreat focused on how to conduct effective congressional oversight, work more effectively with the Congressional Budget Office, and learn from examples of bipartisanship from throughout the history of the Senate.

This year, BPC launched a new series with the House Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committees. These key committees are responsible for leading the policy development process on health care, tax reform, infrastructure, and trade. The tense atmosphere following the election and partisan health care debate has made it even more important to build relationships, camaraderie, and shared knowledge among key staff.
In the 114th Congress, many BPC policy recommendations were included in legislation:

**Six bills were enacted that include significant BPC input:**

1. **The 21st Century Cures Act**
2. **The Medicare Access and Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act**
3. **The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015**
4. **The Every Student Succeeds Act**
5. **The Highway and Transportation Funding Act**
6. **FY2016 Omnibus Appropriations Package**

BPC recommendations were also central in a number of bills introduced and considered in House and Senate Committees including; Retirement Enhancement and Savings Act, Energy Policy Modernization Act, COMPETES Act, Chronic Care Act, LADDER Act, Save our Social Security Act, Senior Home Modification Assistance Initiative Act, Independence at Home Act, and Social Security Reform Act.

**RESPONDING TO REQUESTS BY LEGISLATORS**

- **Sens. Mark Warner (D-VA), Thom Tillis (R-NC), David Perdue (R-GA), and Joe Manchin (D-WV)** asked BPC to lead an effort exploring key issues challenging communities in Appalachia and develop bipartisan policy recommendations.
- Senate Finance Committee Chairman **Orrin Hatch (R-UT)** and Ranking Member **Ron Wyden (D-OR)** have sought BPC input on chronic care legislation.
- **Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Tom Cotton (R-AR)** championed a BPC proposal to give military families with children better support and more flexibility for child care.

The **21st Century Cures Act** contained more than a dozen BPC proposals to accelerate the path to new safe and effective treatments and cures for patients. These proposals would:

- Provide clarity around how health information technology is regulated to ensure it promotes innovation while protecting patient safety and data security
- Facilitate the use of new drug development tools at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including incorporating evidence from patient experience and clinical settings
- Investing in, and removing regulatory barriers to, precision medicine for more targeted, potentially more effective medical therapies
- Strengthening FDA capacity to carry out its mission and improve operational efficiency and scientific capacity at the agency

The **FY2016 Omnibus Appropriations Package** also included several substantial BPC proposals, including:

- Lifting the crude oil export ban
- Department of Homeland Security immigration metrics
- Cyber threat information sharing
- National Institute of Health and FDA increased investments for medical treatment delivery
- Permanency of Low Income Housing Tax Credit
- Increased investments in Department of Energy energy efficiency
- Increased investments in clean energy research and development

**OUR LEGISLATIVE IMPACT**

In the 114th Congress, many BPC policy recommendations were included in legislation:
More than three dozen influential members of Congress and White House officials have been keynote speakers at BPC events in the last 12 months including:

- Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI)
- Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)
- Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)
- Rep. Will Hurd (R-TX)
- Former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz
- Sen. Angus King (I-ME)
- Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)
- Rep. Val Demings (D-FL)
- Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI)
- Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee (D-TX)
- Rep. Krysten Sinema (D-AZ)
- Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL)
- Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-IL)

**12** # of COMMITTEE CONVENINGS

**100,000 +** # of EMAILS SENT to the Hill through BPC Action outreach

**6** # of hearings featuring BPC TESTIMONY

**Co-chair of BPC’s Commission on Retirement Security and Personal Savings Kent Conrad Testifies Before Congress**

**Assistant to the Vice President and Chief Economist Mark Calabria**

**Secretary of Agriculture and Former Member of BPC’s Governors’ Council Sonny Perdue**

The Annual Report Issue ’16 - ’17
Our nation has come a long way since the depths of the Great Recession of 2008, but despite a low unemployment rate and a stock market that has reached new heights, many American families and businesses still feel economic insecurity and uncertainty. From millennials worried about crushing college debt to former factory workers who fear that they can no longer afford a mortgage, let alone save for retirement, millions of Americans are losing faith in the ideals of opportunity that define our nation’s unique economic history.

Many American families and businesses still feel economic insecurity and uncertainty.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The hardest hit in the financial crisis were those in middle- and lower-income brackets. BPC interviewed more than 30 current and former regulators, consumer groups, market analysts, bankers, labor advocates, asset managers, and other experts to explore how to encourage economic growth and entrepreneurial opportunities while maintaining the fundamental stability of our financial markets.

In the resulting report, *Did Policymakers Get Post-Crisis Financial Regulation Right?*, BPC concludes that while Americans have a safer financial regulatory system than before the crisis, there are unintended consequences of post-crisis reform that are constraining growth and warrant attention.

INCREASE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS

Amid the current political divisiveness and polarization lies a note of agreement: the globalized economy is not working for all Americans. Addressing this anxiety requires more than nurturing entrepreneurship. It requires:

- A tax structure that allows U.S. companies to compete globally without shipping jobs overseas
- Responsible fiscal policy
- Long-term investment in the “fundamentals” of the U.S. economy
- An immigration policy that ensures our nation has the workforce and talent it needs to sustain a vibrant, diversified economy for decades to come

BPC’s Immigration Task Force released a new set of policy recommendations in *Still Room for Consensus*. The unanimous recommendations on controversial issues like sanctuary cities, the so-called “Dreamer Program,” and enhanced border enforcement demonstrate the capacity for diverse interests to find common ground in this polarized debate. Over the last 12 months, BPC has drilled down on specific aspects of immigration reform through events, Facebook Live interviews, and blog posts.

REFORM AND STRENGTHEN NAFTA

BPC has drawn from expertise in its energy, agriculture, security, and economic programs to forge a new effort aimed at securing timely improvements to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

NAFTA has enabled tremendous growth in U.S. exports, reduced the costs of consumer goods, and fortified North America’s ability to compete in the global economy. Moreover, NAFTA has provided a foundation for improved political relations and close security collaboration among the United States, Canada, and Mexico. A strengthened NAFTA will build on this successful framework to create new U.S. opportunities in energy exports and financial services. The renegotiation process also holds promise to enhance the existing regime for protection of workers, the environment, and intellectual property rights. BPC is working with members of Congress and major employers to bring evidence to bear on these politically freighted questions and to develop policy solutions that create domestic jobs while strengthening North American economic integration.
FINANCIAL SECURITY FROM COLLEGE TO RETIREMENT

Many Americans are struggling with student debt, job insecurity, and the growing expectation individuals must now shoulder the burden when planning for their own retirement. BPC’s recent work has examined the barriers to completing higher education and the solutions for reaching financial security in retirement. BPC’s Commission on Retirement Security and Personal Savings produced a set of recommendations in the widely commended and comprehensive report, Securing Our Financial Future.

**Cumulative Change in Average Tuition and Fees, and Median Household Income**

The exponential rise in the cost of higher education is among the most direct factors driving student loan growth. Between 1975 and 2015, real median household income grew by just 20 percent, while college prices more than tripled. Average annual in-state tuition and fees at public, four-year institutions grew by 295 percent over this span, in inflation-adjusted dollars. At private, non-profit universities, these costs grew by 221 percent.

Note: Percentage change is measured from 1975 and using 2016 dollars, which were adjusted using the 2016 Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U).

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

**Key proposals from the commission include:**

- Improving access to workplace retirement savings plans
- Promoting personal savings for short-term needs and preserving retirement savings for older age
- Reducing the risk of outliving savings
-Facilitating the use of home equity for retirement consumption
-Improving financial capability among all Americans
-Strengthening Social Security’s finances and modernizing the program

**Increased trade increases GDP.**

Based on the trade growth since NAFTA’s adoption, it’s estimated that the U.S. is $127 BILLION RICHER annually.
The Senate Special Committee on Aging invited the commission’s co-chairs, former Senator Kent Conrad and James B. Lockhart III, to testify on the package of recommendations at a hearing last September. BPC continues to promote a bipartisan conversation that focuses on helping all Americans achieve financial security.

**FISCAL POLICY**

As a respected source for debt limit analysis, BPC’s latest projection of the “X-Date”—the date when the federal government will no longer be able to pay its bills in full and on time—continues to receive widespread attention.

BPC launched the Common Cents podcast series in 2017 to explore the major economic and financial issues of the day. Podcast episodes have covered the debt limit, budget reconciliation, evidence-based budgeting, tax reform, and congressional appropriations.

The federal debt limit restricts the total amount of money that the Treasury Department can legally borrow at any point in time. On March 16, 2017, the Treasury Department began to implement its so-called “extraordinary measures” to continue meeting all of the federal government’s financial obligations. BPC’s updated projections show that, absent legislative action, the U.S. will default on its sovereign debt in early to mid-October 2017.

Read the latest analysis @ bpcdc.org/2tQwkf4

Listen to BPC’s economic podcast series, COMMON CENTS @: bipartisanpolicy.org/common-cents-podcast-series

“While I don’t agree with everything, this report is impressive.”

— SEN. CLAIRE MCCASKILL (D-MO) @CLAIRECMC
The United States must be prepared to defend against multiple threats from many directions and nimble enough to counter new security challenges. The growing ambitions of North Korea and Iran and the spread of non-state groups like ISIS are just a few of the foreign policy issues confronting the nation. The strategic role of the U.S. has become even more complicated as the new administration re-evaluates many of the relationships and expectations that have guided U.S. foreign policy since the Cold War.
BUILD THE FORCE FOR THE FUTURE

The foundation of this nation’s strength and prosperity are the men and women who volunteer to serve both in and out of uniform. However, the military was designed to fight the wars of the past. The current force structure and incentives for recruitment and retention are not optimized for the current threat environment or the types of conflicts that may arise in the future. BPC’s Task Force on Defense Personnel spent the last 12 months considering these challenges and issued 39 recommendations aimed at modernizing the military personnel system.

The recommendations call for a F.A.S.T. force—a force that is:

- Fully engaged by American society
- Adaptable to new threats as they arise
- Sustainable, both financially and culturally, for long-term success
- Technically proficient

The project has garnered considerable interest from policymakers and the national media and project leaders Kathy Roth-Douquet, former Sen. Jim Talent, and Major Gen. Arnold Punaro (ret.) headlined a Senate Armed Services Subcommittee hearing focused on the BPC report.

“Great meeting w/ fmr Sec Panetta, Sen Talent & Kathy Roth-Douquet to discuss imp’t recs by @BPC_Bipartisan Task Force on Defense Personnel”
— SEN. JOHN MCCAIN (R-AZ) @SENIORMCCAIN
RESET KEY MIDEAST RELATIONS
BPC has convened a new Task Force on Managing Disorder in the Middle East, comprised of former diplomats and senior foreign policy experts. This group is examining U.S. interests and objectives, and taking a fresh look at the new forces shaping this dynamic and troubled region. In its first report, Seeking Stability at Sustainable Cost: Principles for a New U.S. Strategy in the Middle East, the group concluded that while the United States has enduring and largely unchanged vital national interests in the Middle East, the strategy for protecting those interests must be updated in light of the complex and pernicious threats emanating from the region and a pragmatic assessment of how they can be mitigated.

Among other things, securing U.S. foreign policy interests will require rebuilding a functioning partnership with Turkey. In its widely viewed report, Beyond The Myth of Partnership, BPC called on the incoming administration to recognize the dramatic change underway in Turkey, recalibrate relations to increase U.S. leverage, and focus its energy on the ongoing erosion of Turkish democracy.

Events in Turkey have unfolded swiftly and BPC has kept pace with the volatility in Turkey, producing sharp analyses on the attempted coup and the referendum vote that gave Turkish President Erdoğan even more power.

Support and Opposition for the Referendum by Province


Read the report @ bpcdc.org/2qJ61a0
Innovation is the core of America’s economic strength and future prosperity. New ideas and technological advances are the key to fostering sustained economic growth, creating jobs in new industries, and continuing America’s global leadership.

**MODERNIZE INFRASTRUCTURE**

Modernizing the nation’s infrastructure has clear bipartisan support as an investment that will spur faster economic growth and job creation while building a foundation for long-term prosperity. BPC’s work on infrastructure and solutions to infrastructure financing have continued
to garner attention of both policymakers and the private sector. In 2016, BPC’s Executive Council on Infrastructure released consensus recommendations designed to dramatically increase private sector investment in America’s infrastructure.

Among its recommendations, the council proposed:

- Providing stable, long-term sources of federal funding
- Streamlining the permitting process and increasing transparency by implementing and expanding the FAST Act provisions
- Applying full life-cycle cost accounting to project development processes
- Encouraging all levels of government to establish comprehensive inventories of their assets
- Establishing expert offices in each state to provide technical assistance and screen projects for all delivery options
- Requiring all recipients of federal funding to screen projects for the best delivery mechanism, including public-private partnerships
- Addressing the need for technical support with a capacity-building fund for infrastructure modernization

In 2017, BPC launched the Coalition to Modernize American Infrastructure, to advocate for federal action to improve national infrastructure policy and dramatically increase investment.

The council is a diverse group of advocates, experts, and businesses led by BPC, the National Governors Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Business Roundtable, SIFMA, and North America’s Building Trades Unions. The coalition has grown to over 50 partners and is working together to ensure that the president and Congress address the nationwide need for more modern infrastructure.

Additionally, BPC has turned its attention to the specific infrastructure challenges facing water and wastewater utilities around the country and is providing specific recommendations to better assist households struggling to afford rising rates and to promote innovation.
It will take several trillion dollars of smart investment to upgrade, modernize, and expand our nation’s roads, railways, water systems, airports, energy, and communications systems. The U.S. government simply does not have the resources to rebuild the country without private sector involvement. The nation must re-examine longstanding policies that create hurdles to private investment and public-private partnerships.

**ENERGY INNOVATION**

A combination of fundamental economic trends, technological innovation, and sound policy decisions have substantially strengthened our nation’s energy outlook.

The [American Energy Innovation Council](https://www.american-energy-innovation-council.org), is a group of 10 corporate leaders who share a commitment to energy innovation. The leaders, who include former CEO of Lockheed Martin Norman Augustine, CEO of General Atomics Neil Blue, CEO of Southern Company Tom Fanning, Bill Gates, and former CEO and Chairman of DuPont Chad Holliday, offered a series of recommendations for spurring innovation in the energy sector in their most recent work, [*The Power of Innovation*](https://www.american-energy-innovation-council.org/publications/the-power-of-innovation). The council has aggressively and successfully countered recent proposals to eliminate or dramatically weaken important Energy Department programs. Energy politics remain deeply divisive. The Trump administration has proposed to expand fossil fuel and coal production through a reduction in regulation and other market interventions. In contrast, the “keep it in the ground” movement and opponents to energy distribution infrastructure continue to gain momentum on the left.

**BPC believes the path forward lies in:**

- Accelerating low-carbon technology innovation
- Promoting free trade in energy imports and exports
- Optimizing tax-payer investments in energy production and use
- Developing new approaches to multi-state energy infrastructure siting and permitting
- Continuing the Energy Department’s Mission Innovation

Public agencies can only consider private-public partnerships (P3s) as financing tools for infrastructure projects if they have been specifically authorized to do so through state law or local ordinance. Currently 17 states do not allow P3s and among those that do, the laws vary in what types of P3s may be undertaken. BPC’s Executive Council recommended that states enact laws which broadly enable P3s for all types of infrastructure, at all levels of government.

Read more about P3s @ [bpcdc.org/2phUzhx](http://bpcdc.org/2phUzhx)
DELIVER BETTER HEALTH CARE AT LOWER COST

The debate to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act continues to be defined by rigid views and political rancor. The last decade has revealed that America will not have resilient or reliable health care policy until both parties are invested in the adoption and successful implementation of a national strategy.

By working with policy experts inside and outside of Washington, BPC is developing politically viable, fact-based health policy solutions. The bipartisan experts leading BPC’s Future of Health Care initiative are the prominent faces traveling across the country debating policy proposals, seeking input from stakeholders, and serving as a resource to state and federal decision makers.

In an innovative format, the real world policy suggestions from those who provide care, pay for care, and oversee care are presented in BPC Action’s Voices of Care podcast map. The map showcases a collection of 5 minute stories and highlights diverse perspectives within the health care industry including state leaders, hospital and payer executives, providers, and patients all across the country.

Washington, D.C. - The following is an excerpt from a statement by BPC’s Future of Health Care effort:

"The nation deserves a resilient outcome that invests both parties in effective implementation. BPC will continue to promote an approach to health care policy that reflects the best ideas and difficult compromises from both parties."

IMPROVING CARE FOR HIGH-NEED, HIGH-COST INDIVIDUALS

Despite the political polarization, bipartisan collaboration on the CHRONIC Care Act shows that cooperation and leadership remain possible in health care reform. BPC is actively supporting this process and Director of Health Policy Katherine Hayes testified before the Senate Finance Committee about caring for patients with chronic conditions as reflected in the recommendations in the Health Project’s report Improving Care for High-Need, High-Cost Medicare Patients.
We hear all too often that many Americans doubt the basic competence of government to make a positive difference in their lives.

While badly frayed, American democracy can rebound given reasonable incentives for collaboration and deliberation. Our optimism is grounded in years of success in working with political leaders and experts from a wide range of professional and ideological perspectives to find smart, pragmatic, and implementable ideas for tackling our nation’s most important challenges.
CREATE A FAIR LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Vigorous discussion, debate, and dissent are the lifeblood of government by the people. A fair legislative process is the essential means by which the nation resolves legitimate differences and draws strength from its diversity. Far too often, the committee vetting process is cut short, limiting thoughtful deliberation and full participation.

BPC’s Healthy Congress Index is a helpful tool for providing metrics to evaluate how Congress is governing. The first six months of the 115th Congress show mostly business as usual in the House and some unusual developments in the Senate. As in recent years, the House has been working fewer days than BPC’s Commission on Political Reform’s recommendation of 45 days per quarter. While House committees continue to report a high number of bills, the amendment process on the floor remains mostly closed to members. The Senate is spending a healthy amount of time working in Washington and its committees are active as well. Unlike in recent years, there have been very few attempts to filibuster legislation in the Senate and very few amendments to legislation. As more controversial and significant legislation comes before the Senate, that is likely to change. The index will continue to track these critical elements of the legislative process throughout the 115th Congress.

RECOMMITING TO CIVILITY

On Wednesday, June 21, 2017, members of Congress recommitted to a pledge of civility in the wake of the shooting at a practice for the GOP congressional baseball team in Alexandria, VA. The co-presidents of the freshman class of the 115th Congress—Reps. Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA), Jack Bergman (R-MI), Val Demings (D-FL), and Donald McEachin (D-VA)—hosted the signing with BPC in an effort to rededicate to respect and civility across party lines.

BPC’s Healthy Congress Index provides Americans with crucial metrics for evaluating Congress’ ability to effectively legislate and govern. Halfway through 2017, each chamber should be in the 90 working day range at this point—a benchmark recommended by BPC’s Commission on Political Reform of 45 working days per quarter. The Senate worked 85 days between January and June, almost exactly as many as at this point in the last Congress. However, the House began to slip behind and so far this year has been at work in the Capitol for 75 days.

View the full Healthy Congress Index @ bipartisanpolicy.org/congress
COMMITMENT TO CIVILITY

“We are dedicated to showing proper respect to one another and all others, encouraging productive dialogue, and modeling civility in our public and private actions. While we may vehemently disagree on matters of law and policy, we will strive at all times to maintain collegiality and the honor of our office...

“We also believe that maintaining a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation will help make government work more efficiently and effectively, help build consensus and restore the public trust, and ultimately, serve as a positive influence on society at large...”

Read more about BPC’s Summer of Civility @ bipartisanpolicy.org/summer-of-civility

The Commitment to Civility Pledge was originally authored by Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA) in January 2017, and spearheaded, by the freshman class. BPC encourages all members of Congress to join the House freshman class in rising above the fray and committing to treat each other with respect and grace. BPC recognizes that this symbolic action will not overcome the polarization and division that afflicts our democracy, but symbols do matter. It is time for our nation’s leaders to draw strength from their diversity and model the behavior that all Americans should follow.
TAP AMERICA’S TALENT FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH

BPC has been closely scrutinizing key aspects of the selection and nominations processes. BPC’s Management Excellence Tracker monitors the progress of filling 50 key Senate confirmable management positions. There have been too many management failures in the executive branch in recent years, including the rollout of the Affordable Care Act and the Veteran’s Affairs medical system delays. It is essential that these management positions be filled by qualified individuals and in short order. The tracker highlights these positions and provides a tool for monitoring the administration’s progress.

Additionally, BPC’s Financial Regulatory Reform Initiative monitors the time it takes for presidents to nominate and the Senate to confirm select financial regulatory positions. In the recent report, Financial Regulators Struggling with Longer Vacancies at the Top, BPC found that the process for nominating and confirming presidential appointments continues to slow down. The length of the nominations process has more than tripled since the late 1980s, and that has led to agencies routinely being understaffed at the leadership level. The president and the Senate should commit to ensuring that vacancies are filled in a timely manner.

To achieve an improved appointment process, BPC is focusing on solutions including:

- Requiring fewer appointees to go through Senate confirmation
- Streamlining disclosure forms and vetting processes
- Requiring candidates to show an ability to lead a large bureaucracy or assemble an effective management team

History shows us that Congress and the executive branch can work together to fill key positions critical to the financial stability of the country. Read the full report @ bpcdc.org/2n4dQoY
BY THE NUMBERS

PRESS

BPC conducted more than 240 radio interviews broadcast across 8,549 stations

BPC EXPERTS WERE FEATURED IN:

We totaled 368 TELEVISION SEGMENTS

BPC had PRESS MENTIONS from June 2016 to June 2017

BPC EXPERTS AUTHORED 83 OP-EDS

BPC’s presence across different platforms and media resulted in a TOTAL PUBLICITY VALUE of: $150 MILLION

FACEBOOK LIVE WITH ALAN MAKOVSKY, A MEMBER OF BPC’S TASK FORCE ON MANAGING DISORDER IN THE MIDDLE EAST
The BPC website was visited 617,852 times in the last year.

We went LIVE on Facebook reaching <76,304 people with our content.

We have email subscribers in all 50 states.

The work of our COMMISSION ON RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PERSONAL SAVINGS was some of our most visited content. Nearly 7,000 people visited Securing our Financial Future, spending an average of 5 minutes each on the report page.

<255,000 people came to our website through organic searching which means our content is highly searchable, relevant, and engaging.

BPC released 16 PODCAST EPISODES.

We held 72 events from June 2016 to June 2017.

<5,917 people have attended events hosted by BPC this past year.

The 10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY was the most well attended—registering 1,190 GUESTS—followed by events at both the Democratic and the Republican National Conventions.

OUR PARTNERS HAVE INCLUDED:

- Hoover Institution
- PwC
- NPC Foundation Center for Intelligence & Global Affairs
- Milken Institute

BPC has partnered with other organizations 15X THIS YEAR.
Since its founding in 2007, BPC has grown in size, prominence, and its ability to deliver on its mission of finding bipartisan solutions to key challenges facing the nation. This 10-year snapshot gives the numbers behind the organization's growth.

2007 – 2016

Cumulative Revenue
$211.5 MILLION

Cumulative Expense
$195.8 MILLION

Number of Funders

Revenue vs. Expense

Restricted vs. Unrestricted Net Assets

The Annual Report Issue '16 - '17
FINANCIAL INFORMATION: 2016

REVENUE

- Corporate and Other: 39%
- Institutional Foundations: 45%
- Individual and Family Foundations: 16%

EXPENSES

- Development: 6%
- Management and General: 12%
- Program: 82%
The Bipartisan Policy Center relies on the philanthropic support of a diverse group of foundations, corporations, and individuals that invest in our programs and core operations each year.

To learn more about how you can become involved in our mission to advance bipartisan solutions, please contact Ann Schumacher at aschumacher@bipartisanpolicy.org or (202) 204-2418.

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