



ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Chris Van Hollen believes that the challenge of our time is building a strong economy with more shared prosperity. That conviction is behind so many of the big fights he's waged and won on behalf of everyday Marylanders, and it's what will drive his priorities as our next U.S. Senator.

Far too many families feel like they're working harder than ever, but are stuck in place or falling behind. Chris has a comprehensive economic plan to change that. It invests in Marylanders, boosts paychecks for Americans who are working hard to get ahead, and cracks down on Wall Street's excesses and risky financial dealings that helped plunge us into a deep recession.

A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL - FROM EARLY EDUCATION TO COLLEGE

Chris knows that education is the key ladder to opportunity. From early education through high school, Chris will focus on the need for every child in every neighborhood and zip code to get a high quality education. He supports universal pre-K and expanded Head Start and Early Head Start, and introduced the Keep Our PACT Act to increase investments in our schools.

Higher education must be affordable for every student - with more Pell grants, flexible options to help students reduce time to graduate, and increased resources to help lower tuition. Chris supports President Obama's plan for free community college, with additional resources to help low-income students afford two-years of tuition at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Chris is fighting to allow graduates to refinance their loans to lower rates and is pushing to increase income-based repayment options so that graduates can manage their monthly bills.

Chris also supported passage of the DREAM Act in the House in 2010 and the DREAM Act referendum in Maryland to provide opportunities for young immigrants.

BUILDING BETTER PIPELINES FROM LEARNING TO JOBS

Chris has made it a priority to push for more investment in programs that build stronger pipelines from learning to employment. In Congress, he has worked successfully to bring together schools and employers to ensure curricula are designed to help graduates get jobs after they complete their education.

When Montgomery College needed funding for an innovative biotechnology education program that included a partnership with local hospitals, they came to Chris and he was able to help secure those resources. He also helped obtain funding for Maryland Community Colleges to prepare workers for the growing cyber security industry.

Chris is a strong supporter of apprenticeship programs and for providing tax incentives to companies that provide apprenticeships and hire new employees after successful completion of apprenticeship programs.

INCREASING PAYCHECKS AND BOOSTING SAVINGS

Marylanders who are working harder than ever should receive fair pay for their efforts. That is why Chris supports raising the minimum wage, equal pay for equal work, and earned sick leave. But we need to do more.

Chris's economic plan would reform the tax code so it does not penalize the hard work of individuals and families who earn their living paycheck to paycheck. This requires changes that make it easier for working families to get ahead based on their own productivity.

Chris's plan provides a \$1,000 paycheck tax credit for every worker making less than \$100,000 a year (a \$2,000 credit for every two-earner couple making less than \$200,000), as well as an extra bonus of up to \$500 for those who save for retirement. It would make it easier to afford childcare and make the tax code more fair for families when both parents work. To fund these measure the plan would charge a small fee on Wall Street trading, which would also help curb excessive financial speculation that doesn't help our economy.

The plan also ends provisions which currently subsidize luxuries like corporate jets and enable big corporations to receive tax breaks for CEO and executive bonuses without also providing rank-and-file employees a raise for their own productivity.

Measures like these are needed if our country wants to end the income stagnation America's working families have experienced for so long and usher in a new era where incomes of working families will finally be able to rise.

INVESTING HERE AT HOME AND GROWING SMALL BUSINESSES

Chris understands that small businesses are the backbone of our economy. They create jobs and enable local communities to thrive. That's why Chris's economic plan invests in entrepreneurs. It helps provide the tools they need to succeed here at home. His plan also closes special interest tax breaks that encourage corporations to move jobs and capital overseas. It seeks to create new incentives for job growth and boost investment in infrastructure, innovation, and scientific research — measures that will help grow Maryland's bioscience industry and provide good construction jobs.

Chris supports funding for a robust transportation modernization program that would help promote growth and help link workers to existing jobs. He does this by closing the outrageous loophole that lets some big corporations avoid U.S. taxes by moving their mailing address overseas.

Chris will also work to maximize federal investment in job centers across our state – in places like the Port of Baltimore, Fort Meade, BWI, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, and Fort Detrick.

EXPANDING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Effective action on our economic priorities requires creative efforts to facilitate economic development, work with local agencies and anchor institutions like universities, hospitals, and major employers, and expand public-private partnerships to boost job and wage growth.

Major employers must refocus their efforts to hire and purchase locally to create our own home-grown economic stimulus. These efforts should be coupled with increased measures to end barriers for minority- and women-owned businesses, including providing fair access to credit.

Chris has brought this approach to the areas he's represented and he will do the same for all of Maryland as our next Senator.

Paid for by Van Hollen for Senate

