

BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

annual report 2018



Letter from the President

The basic assumptions of opportunity and equality that define the American aspiration are in doubt. According to recent polls, only one-third of parents believe that their children will be better off than they are. As disconcerting, roughly half of eligible voters under age 40 express a preference for socialism over capitalism. After taking a moment to cringe at the inadequacy of civics and history education, we must acknowledge the painful reality that our economic system is failing us. Absent proactive solutions, our nation's economic future will be marred by social unrest, heavy-handed government intervention, or both. As significant, the anger and alienation felt by millions of Americans will continue to drive both parties toward their extremes, disabling our democracy's historic capacity to bring the country together when our future is at stake.

Against that dire backdrop, BPC stands proudly in the arena, fighting for progress and demonstrating that it is still possible to achieve real results. The 115th Congress, unruly as it was, passed a variety of bills that are improving lives and strengthening the economy. BPC is gratified that our analytical input and specific policy proposals feature prominently in many of these legislative achievements. (Several of BPC's key 2018 impacts are summarized later in the report.) As we enter the 2020 election cycle, core questions about our economic system are at the top of the national agenda. Despite a flourishing economy and historically low unemployment, many Americans are today living on the edge. A recent Federal Reserve survey found that 40 percent of working Americans didn't believe they could handle an unanticipated \$400 expense without either selling something or borrowing money. Put simply, in recent decades, most Americans have been working hard but not getting ahead, and the basic assumptions of opportunity and equality that define the American aspiration have been cast into doubt. While workingclass wages have been stagnant, the costs of succeeding in our 21st-century economy have not.

Though the challenges faced by America's families today require bold solutions, BPC rejects the notion that we should cast aside the competitive ideas and entrepreneurial freedom that propel American exceptionalism. Our leaders have the means to create a system of inclusive capitalism that extends the bounty of free enterprise to millions of Americans who are struggling to get ahead.

That's why we are launching a bipartisan Opportunity Agenda in 2019. The initiatives contained in this agenda share several characteristics that we believe represent the sweet spot for legislative success. First, they are "kitchen table" issues to which most Americans can relate. Second, the topics are more comprehendible than comprehensive, focusing on key aspects of larger problems. Third, constructive partisans with credibility in their respective caucuses are leading the legislative efforts. Finally, each "Though the challenges faced by America's families today require bold solutions, BPC rejects the notion that we should cast aside the competitive ideas and entrepreneurial freedom that propel American exceptionalism."

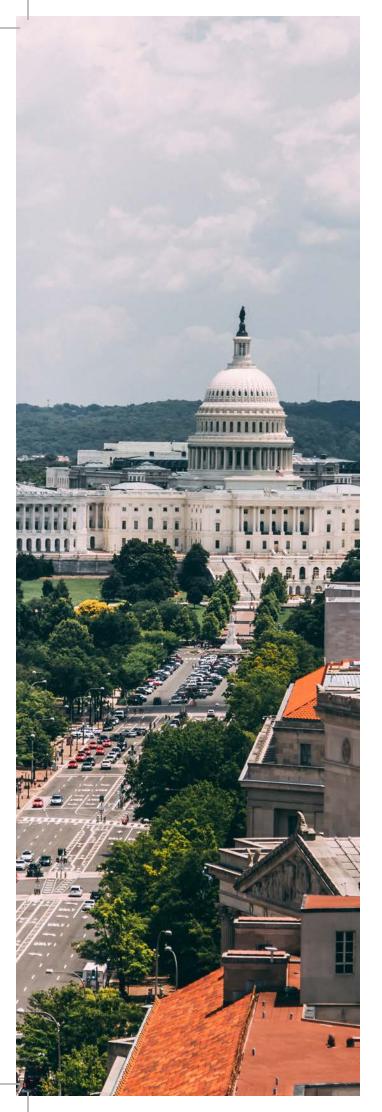
initiative is anchored in a committee-led process as opposed to being forced forward by leadership absent meaningful deliberation. From efforts to provide paid family leave and affordable, quality childcare to new parents, to increasing access and accountability in higher education, to supporting people struggling with addiction, BPC's Opportunity Agenda will enhance workforce opportunities and participation.

This Opportunity Agenda offers an immediate and politically viable path to strengthen individual households and restore the common purpose that is lacking in our democracy. We can do this.

Join us.

ason grumet

Jason Grumet President, Bipartisan Policy Center @JasonGrumet



Areas of Impact

WHERE BPC PLAYED Key Roles in 2018

Reflecting the best thinking from across the political spectrum, BPC developed and promoted policy solutions that have improved the health, security, and welfare of Americans as well as enhanced the effectiveness of the federal government. In 2018, key policy achievements in which BPC played a significant role include:

Caring for Children and Vulnerable Populations

Child Tax Credit (CTC)

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Chronic Care

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)

Opioid Treatment and Prevention

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Making Government Work Better for the American People

Evidence-Based Policymaking

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress

LOOKING AHEAD BPC's Opportunity Agenda

Heading into the 2020 election, the newly energized progressive wing of the Democratic Party is generating enthusiasm on the left, widening the space in the middle and fueling opposition on the right. Within that divide a series of bipartisan initiatives focusing on America's families and workforce has emerged. Taken together, these initiatives comprise an "Opportunity Agenda" that will expand the ability of more people to compete and succeed in the new economy.

Early childhood education.

Building on substantial 2018 investments in childcare block grants, BPC is working to increase high-quality childcare options and secure additional investment to improve childcare facilities and support this essential workforce.

Paid family leave. Eighty-five percent of American workers lack access to paid leave following the birth or adoption of a child. This limitation places a unique burden on women in low-wage jobs. BPC is working with political leaders and policymakers from both sides of the aisle to develop the ideas and broadbased coalition needed to create a national paid leave program. **Higher education access and accountability.** A BPC task force is developing policy proposals to inform reauthorization of the Higher Education Act that expires in 2020. Its focus is on improving financing options, addressing student debt, and improving graduation rates.

Retirement security. BPC has developed a detailed set of proposals to bolster Americans' personal savings and retirement security in the new economy. This work has influenced a series of bipartisan bills that will increase access to workplace savings plans for small businesses and offer people new options to preserve their income after retirement. BPC has also launched the Funding Our Future campaign in partnership with more than three dozen partner organizations.

Investment in innovation. From clean energy to health care, federal funding for scientific research is in decline, risking the nation's longterm domestic competitiveness and closing pathways to new domestic industries. Business investment in new technology and research has not notably accelerated following recent corporate tax reductions. BPC is working to protect federal research funding and create incentives to motivate new investment by the private sector.

Effective and equitable opioid treatment. Over 72,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2017, and opioid addiction is excluding hundreds of thousands of Americans from the workforce. BPC's Future of Health Project is developing recommendations to increase access to medically approved treatments and working with Congress, the administration, and local governments to track and evaluate the expenditure of funds approved last Congress.

Infrastructure. Modernizing the nation's infrastructure will create jobs for tens of thousands of workers and enable tens of millions of workers to access jobs. The roadblock to legislation is funding. BPC is advancing proposals that will stimulate private investment in urban and rural areas and is developing a new approach to public funding that will generate broad-based support.

Year in Review 2018



Dan Coats Director of National Intelligence



Colette Honorable Former Commissioner at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and BPC Senior Fellow



Ivanka Trump Advisor to the President



Kevin McAleenan Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection



Ben Carson Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

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Chris Dodd and Rick Santorum Former Senators and Co-Chairs of BPC's Task Force on Paid Family Leave



Americans overwhelmingly believe immigration helps the Untied States and feel it is necessary to continue this strong tradition. View our survey results to find out more:





Heather Wilson Secretary of the Air Force



John Hickenlooper Former Governor of Colorado

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Reps. Susan Brooks (R-IN) and Raul Ruiz (D-CA)



Sens. Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Angus King (I-ME)

"You have to accept the notion that no one has a monopoly on knowledge, wisdom, or the right course of action. And you have to constantly ask yourself, 'Am I doing the right thing?' You have to force yourself to listen to the other side, even though you might not like the person, you might not like the party, you might not like the ideology, with an attitude that he may be right and I may learn something listening to him. At least you have to, in good faith, listen to contrary arguments."

> -George Mitchell, INAUGURAL DOLE SERIES ON LEADERSHIP EVENT



George Mitchell Former Senate Majority Leader and BPC Co-Founder



Katie Harbath Facebook Public Policy Director, Global Elections



we ♥ bob. bob ♥ shakes. #Dole95

BPC Staff Celebrating Co-Founder Bob Dole's 95th Birthday



To govern a divided country, Democrats and Republicans need to get to know each other—and trust one another.

Given the country's deep policy and political disagreements, members of Congress must operate with respect, decency, and civility in order to forge collaborative solutions to our nation's most pressing challenges. Today's congressional environment, however, runs counter to the kind of relationship-building that fosters working across the aisle.

The question is, how can policymakers get to a place where members of Congress are working together based on shared experiences, agreement on problems and underlying facts, and a better understanding of one another's perspectives?

The Bipartisan Policy Center's American Congressional Exchange (ACE) enables members of Congress to get outside of Washington for a weekend to learn about their colleagues' districts and cultivate mutual interests. Members are paired on a bipartisan basis with a focus on districts that differ geographically, culturally, and politically. Already the program has successfully facilitated bipartisan collaboration on policy priorities, some of which have been enacted.

ACE is spearheaded by the co-chairs of BPC's Commission on Political Reform: former Senate Majority Leaders Tom Daschle and Trent Lott, former Agriculture Secretary and Representative Dan Glickman, and former Senator Olympia Snowe.

2018 EXCHANGES

Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI) visited Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)

Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL) visited Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)

Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA) visited Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE)

Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) visited Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY)

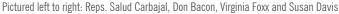
Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA) visited Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC)

Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE) visited Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA) (reciprocal trip)

Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR) visited Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA)

BPC will conduct 20 trips in ACE's second year to give more legislators the chance to exchange ideas and perspectives, and forge bonds of trust that are fundamental to the legislative process.





The Bob & DOLE series on Elizabeth DOLE series on LEADERSHIP

BPC designed the Bob and Elizabeth Dole Series on Leadership to help the country better understand what makes for effective, strong leadership across a variety of institutions. It features in-depth conversations, film screenings, and book lectures.



If somebody trusts in you and they give you a job, and you know they've had to work to get you that job, you're going to do absolutely everything you can to be successful. Not only for yourself, but for them because they had the faith in you.
—Vicki Hollub, President and CEO of Occidental Petroleum

With these events, we seek to understand and celebrate the skills and circumstances that define great leaders like Bob and Elizabeth Dole.
—Jason Grumet, President of BPC



Pictured: (top left) Jason Grumet and Lonnie Bunch, and (bottom right) Vicki Hollub

PAST EVENTS

George Mitchell, Former Senate Majority Leader

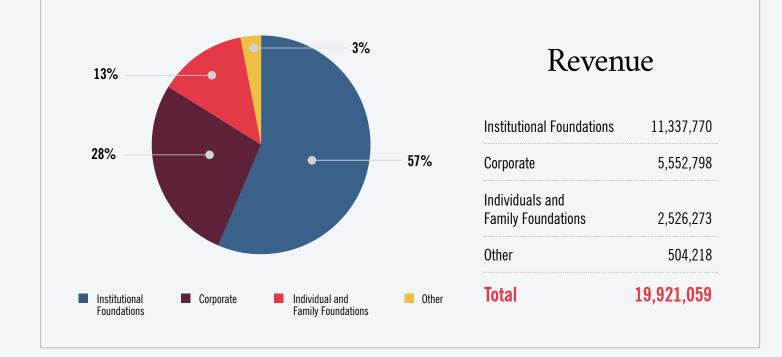
David Gergen Former Presidential Advisor

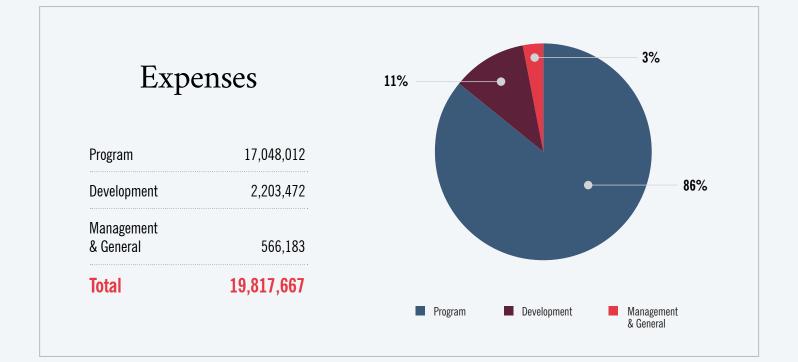
"Hesburgh" film screening

Lowell C. McAdam Chairman and Former CEO, Verizon Communications

Vicki Hollub President and CEO, Occidental Petroleum Lonnie Bunch Founding Director, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

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Thank you

Partner SPOTLIGHT



BPC is grateful to the many foundations, individuals, and corporations who make our work possible. In 2018, one organization in particular—Arnold Ventures—stood out for its policy vision and breadth of support. Guided by a focus on evidence-based policy, research, and advocacy (which included extending support to BPC's affiliate BPC Action), Arnold Ventures enabled BPC to pursue the full complement of strategies needed to take our ideas from the drawing board to implementation as law and policy. Thanks to this important partnership, BPC advanced several groundbreaking initiatives in 2018.

Higher education's mission accountable. BPC is crafting policy innovations designed to make institutions more accountable for student outcomes and is building academia's knowledge about policy through two bipartisan fellowships—one in the Senate and one in the House.

Roadmap to ending the opioid crisis. BPC launched a first-of-its-kind, comprehensive analysis that tracks federally funded opioid programs over the past two years, and examined how appropriated funds are being directed to address the opioid epidemic. Detailed case studies of program responses in five states reveal insight into what's working and what more can be done.

Ushering in evidence-based policy. The bipartisan Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act tirelessly championed and shaped by BPC throughout 2018—crossed the finish line, with President Donald Trump signing it into law just after the New Year. The law mandates that government agencies add evaluation capacity and institute measures to better harness data.



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