

Texas Public Policy Foundation
COVID-19 Response
Federal/States Policy Agenda

White House

1

Prioritize investment in & waive / streamline permitting process for:

- *Converting existing refineries to be able to refine American-produced oil and gas*
- *Constructing new nuclear plants.*

2

Ensure energy companies have access to stimulus measures and credit facilities in conjunction with ongoing relief efforts.

Energy companies have billions in debt coming due in the next 24 months.

3

Suspend Food and Drug Administration prohibition for any drug that has passed the toxicity standard.

4

Permanently sunset or repeal any regulatory authority curtailed in the present crisis. Make all suspensions of regulation permanent until specifically reinstated by appropriate lawmaking—not administrative—authority.

5

Issue executive order pending legislation enshrining Right to Try as a prerogative for all Americans.

6

Define direct medical care and health care sharing ministries as qualified medical expenses and not health plans or insurance plans.

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Congress

1

Pass Workplace Recovery Act.

(See white paper on national business-interruption insurance plan
<https://bit.ly/BizInterruptionIns.>)

2

Pass legislation enshrining Right to Try as a prerogative for all Americans.

3

Codify November 2019 Executive Order regarding Price Transparency.
(<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cms-1717-f2.pdf>)

4

Decouple HSAs from high deductible health insurance plans.

5

Allow federal loans, but not bailouts, to be made to energy companies:

- *Small business loans are a central feature of the Senate stimulus bill, which is capped at companies employing less than 500 people, and the Federal Reserve is making facilities available to both large and small companies.*
- *The Senate program could be made more broadly available (larger companies, longer deadlines) to domestic energy producers because of the unique situation caused by the oversupply from foreign governments.*
- *The idea is that loans will be a more orderly way to “bridge the gap” instead of having thousands of energy companies go through the messy Chapter 11 process.*

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States

1

Permanently sunset or repeal any regulatory authority curtailed in the present crisis; make all suspensions of regulation permanent until specifically reinstated by lawmaking—not administrative—authority.

2

Repeal state certificate-of-need laws that prevent hospital construction.

3

Suspend all state regulation on fuel-blend mandates.

4

Allow for tax breaks/incentives for all education-related expenditures incurred by families and individuals in a state-recognized educational setting.

5

Expand HSAs for individuals with Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, direct medical care, health care sharing ministries, short-term limited-duration plans, over-the-counter medications, and medical indemnity plans.

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China

1

Universal and permanent tariffs will be imposed on goods made in the People's Republic of China by any firm.

2

The United States will cease supporting and training the technical, managerial, and scientific elite of the People's Republic of China (PRC). No further student visas will be issued to PRC citizens. All current student visas will expire in one year.

3

American institutions of higher education are barred from receiving, or having their employees receive, any funding from the People's Republic of China or its agents.

4

All taxes on repatriated capital should be removed. Return of investment and capital to the United States should be free of any penalty, in the interest of American workers.