

MELAT ON THE ISSUES

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ABOLISH I.C.E. | END ALL WARS | HOUSING 4 ALL | HEALTHCARE 4 ALL

HOUSING - HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Housing is the foundation every person needs to live with dignity and stability, yet too many Americans are being pushed out, priced out, or left out entirely. We can't fix this crisis with the same failed approaches. We need a bold, housing-first strategy that treats homelessness as a public health issue, not a criminal one.

That means:

- Investing in wraparound services for mental illness and addiction
- Building long-term housing for all
- Federally subsidizing 30% of all new housing developments to ensure affordable, dignified housing is truly accessible.

We also need to go further. The private market has proven it cannot house everyone, which is why I support the development of publicly-owned, mixed-income social housing that is insulated from market speculation, and repealing the Faircloth Amendment, the federal law that has blocked the country from expanding its public housing stock for decades. Community land trusts, expanded rental assistance for low-income tenants, and cracking down on corporate landlords and private equity speculators engaged in price-fixing are all part of getting Denverites housed with dignity.

HEALTHCARE - HEALTHCARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Healthcare isn't just about surviving illness, it's about having the freedom to live a full and healthy life without the fear of going bankrupt because you got sick. Medicare for All is long overdue. Not just because it's the right thing to do, but because it's the most effective, efficient, and economically efficient proposal we have. We spend nearly twice as much as other wealthy countries on healthcare for worse outcomes and still leave 27 million uninsured. With Medicare for All, every American could save thousands per year while getting better, more reliable care.

But Medicare for All alone isn't enough if the industry that surrounds it remains in the hands of a handful of corporate behemoths. One company can own and control every link in the healthcare supply chain, from your insurance plan to the pharmacy where you pick up prescriptions to the hospital where you receive care. The result is prices that go up, quality of care that goes down, and independent doctors and pharmacies that get pushed out of business.

That's why I support the **Break Up Big Medicine Act** (the bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators Warren and Hawley) which would structurally separate insurers, pharmacy benefit managers, and healthcare providers, just as Glass-Steagall once separated commercial and investment banking. Corporations should not be able to profit from every stage of your care while facing no competition and no accountability.

I also support the cancellation of all medical debt. Medical debt is the leading cause of bankruptcy in the United States, whereas in other developed countries it accounts for none or only a small fraction of bankruptcies. No one should lose their home, their savings, or their financial future because they got sick. Canceling existing medical debt and prohibiting the collection of future medical debt is a straightforward act of economic justice, and an acknowledgment that a society that allows this is not a healthy one.

NUTRITIOUS FOOD – NOURISHMENT IS A HUMAN RIGHT

In the wealthiest country in the world, over 44 million people struggle with hunger, and our food system is increasingly controlled by monopolistic corporations that prioritize profits over public health. The United States has one of the most permissive food regulatory environments in the developed world, and we're paying for it with our health.

We need to reinvest in the FDA and USDA, free them from corporate capture, ban the additives that other nations have long since restricted, strengthen regulations on labeling and marketing (especially to children) and build a food system that prioritizes nourishment over profit.

EDUCATION – LEARNING IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Education is the bedrock of a thriving democracy and a just society — not just economically, but politically. An informed, educated electorate is a powerful check on concentrated power. When people understand history, how government works, how money moves through politics, and how to think critically about the information they receive, they are harder to manipulate, harder to suppress, and harder to ignore. That is why public education is under sustained attack, the same forces that benefit from a less informed citizenry.

From preschool through college, every child deserves free, high-quality public education regardless of their zip code. Decades of disinvestment, privatization, and over-testing have hollowed out our schools, burnt out our teachers, and turned our education system into another corporate for-profit failure. We need to invest in public schools, pay teachers a living wage, and fully fund early childhood education.

We also need to make public college and trade school tuition-free. Today, the average student borrower graduates with tens of thousands of dollars in debt, which shapes every subsequent decision they make about where to live, whether to start a family, whether to take a risk and start a business or pursue a calling that doesn't pay well. That debt is not just a personal burden; it is a political one. It keeps young people from fully participating in civic life, from running for office, from organizing in their communities. We were once world leader in public education because we believed that it was about the pursuit of knowledge and progress, not profit. By reinvesting in education at every level, we give every child the chance to follow their curiosity, grow their skills, and become the kind of engaged, empowered citizen that a real democracy requires.

TRANSIT – SAFE PASSAGE IS A HUMAN RIGHT

A city that works for everyone is a city where you don't need a car to get to work, school, or a doctor's appointment. Denver has grown faster than its public transit infrastructure, leaving too many residents, especially low-income Denverites and communities of color, without reliable options. I support robust federal investment in public transit: expanding light rail and bus rapid transit, making fares affordable, and modernizing our transit systems as part of our broader climate infrastructure. Transit is not a luxury. It is the circulatory system of an affordable city.

TAX THE RICH - EQUITY IS A HUMAN RIGHT

We cannot have a conversation about affordability without confronting who has been hoarding the gains. Over the last several decades, roughly \$79 trillion went from working people to the wealthiest Americans through rigged tax code.

I support an **Ultra-Millionaire Tax** on net worth above \$50 million, closing the carried-interest loophole, and taxing the margin loans that billionaires use to avoid paying capital gains entirely. The ultra-wealthy regularly borrow against their stock to fund their lifestyles while never triggering a taxable event and contributing nothing to the public. The top income tax rate should be restored to reflect what this country looked like when we actually built things together. The corporate tax rate should be raised back above 50%. And companies where the CEO earns hundreds of times what their median worker makes should be taxed accordingly.

CHILD & ELDER CARE - CAREGIVING IS A HUMAN RIGHT

We talk about opportunity in this country, but without a reliable caregiving infrastructure, opportunity is out of reach for too many working families. Today, parents are forced into impossible choices: pay a second mortgage for childcare, cut back on work, or rely on a patchwork of favors and luck. I grew up surrounded by a community that stepped in when my parents were stretched thin, but families shouldn't have to depend on chance to make it through the week. Right now, the message to parents is: contribute to the economy, but don't expect any support raising the next generation. Universal childcare flips that script by treating caregiving as essential infrastructure so every child has a safe place to learn and grow, and every parent has the freedom to work, plan, and thrive.

The same principle extends to our elders. Too many families are forced to choose between their own careers and caring for aging parents, while seniors are warehoused in for-profit facilities that prioritize shareholder returns over dignity. We need federally supported elder care that keeps seniors in their communities, supports family caregivers, and ensures that aging in America is treated as a public responsibility — not a profit opportunity.

PUBLICLY OWNED UTILITY – COMFORT IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Energy, water, and broadband are not commodities; they are the infrastructure of daily life. When these essentials are controlled by private monopolies, prices go up, and accountability goes out the window. Publicly owned utilities already prove the model: **Seattle City Light**, a publicly owned electric utility, charges its customers roughly a third of what PG&E charges in San Francisco. The Tennessee Valley Authority, built in the 1930s from failing private infrastructure, became a publicly owned energy provider that transformed an entire region. We should apply this same logic today — expanding municipal energy utilities, building public broadband in underserved communities, and ensuring that where private monopolies have failed, the government steps in. Utility decisions should be made by and for the people who depend on them, not shareholders in a boardroom.

VOTING RIGHTS – REPRESENTATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Democracy only works when every eligible voter can participate and when the maps that determine representation reflect the will of the people, not the calculations of politicians trying to entrench their own power.

For years, an organized effort has been underway to make it harder to vote: purging rolls, restricting early voting, closing polling places in communities of color, and gerrymandering districts so that voters no longer meaningfully choose their representatives. Representatives — and the corporate interests behind them — choose their voters instead. The result is a Congress that does not reflect the country, where fringe extreme factions and the wealthy few hold outsized power and incumbents face no real accountability.

I support the **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act**, automatic voter registration, same-day registration, and robust federal protection of every eligible voter's right to cast a ballot that counts. The franchise is not a privilege to be rationed. It is the foundation of self-governance.

MONEY IN POLITICS - EQUITY IS A HUMAN RIGHT

We can't call ourselves a democracy when it's up for sale to the highest bidder. The entire system — who runs, who wins, and who they answer to — has been distorted by the flood of money that Citizens United unleashed. Fixing it requires more reform. It requires a comprehensive overhaul of how our elections work.

End the Influence of Money: I support banning members of Congress from becoming lobbyists for five years after leaving office, banning them from owning or trading individual stocks while in office, and passing term limits to end the era of career politicians who confuse incumbency with public service.

Shorten & Democratize Our Elections: Campaigns in the United States now run for years, consuming enormous resources and drowning out the voices of ordinary people. I support shortening the official federal campaign season to three months, requiring all major candidates to participate in publicly sponsored debates, and placing strict caps on total campaign spending so that elections are won on ideas — not on who can raise the most money.

Regulate Campaign Advertising: The current system allows campaigns and outside groups to flood the airwaves with misleading and manipulative advertising with virtually no accountability. I support strict regulations on campaign advertisements including mandatory disclosure of funders, truthfulness standards, and strict limits on spending, so that voters get information, not propaganda.

Public Financing of Elections: A national small-donor matching program that amplifies grassroots contributions would change who runs for office, who wins, and who they answer to. But the ultimate goal is a fully publicly financed election system where every viable candidate has the resources to run a competitive campaign without begging wealthy donors for money. Public campaign financing is not a procedural reform. It is the precondition for every other reform on this page.

Overtake Citizens United and Pass the We the People Amendment: The Supreme Court's Citizens United decision opened the floodgates to unlimited, anonymous corporate money in our elections and has distorted our democracy ever since. Corporations are not people and money is not speech. I am a proud cosponsor of the **We the People Amendment (H.J.Res. 54)**, the constitutional amendment introduced by Rep. Pramila Jayapal that would end corporate constitutional rights and overturn Citizens United once and for all. Until we get there, I support the **DISCLOSE Act** and every available legislative tool to drag dark money into the light.

Ban Super PACs: Even before we overturn Citizens United, Congress can act. I support the **No Super PACs Act**, introduced by Rep. Summer Lee + Sen. Bernie Sanders, which would ban super PACs outright and eliminate the fiction that unlimited outside spending has nothing to do with the candidates it elects. Super PACs do not exist to protect free speech. They exist to launder the preferences of billionaires into election outcomes.

LABOR + WORKERS' RIGHTS – PROVIDING IS A HUMAN RIGHT

For decades, the balance of power between workers and corporations has been systematically dismantled through the weakening of labor law, the destruction of union density, and a political class that talks about work while serving the people who profit from it. Every worker deserves a union and I believe in the power of organized labor to raise wages, improve conditions, and restore dignity to work. That means:

- Passing the **PRO Act** to make it easier for workers to organize, form unions, and collectively bargain
- Ending at-will employment, strengthening wrongful termination protections
- Raising the federal minimum wage to a living wage
- Guaranteeing paid family, medical, and sick leave for every worker
- Protecting the right to strike, including for federal employees
- Legalizing strikes for public employees and ending forced arbitration
- Cracking down on wage theft, worker misclassification, and union-busting
- Supporting a four-day workweek and expanded unemployment insurance
- Developing a federal framework to protect workers displaced by automation and AI — including retraining programs, income support, and ensuring that productivity gains from AI flow to workers, not just to shareholders
- The threat of AI-driven job displacement is real and accelerating. Thousands of workers are already being laid off and replaced by technology while the profits flow upward and the people whose knowledge and creativity made that technology possible receive nothing. Any AI policy worth the name must center workers, not treat them as an afterthought.

IMMIGRATION – MIGRATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT

As an immigrant and the proud daughter of immigrants, immigration is a cornerstone of our national identity. The families who leave everything behind to seek a better life here in America embody the spirit of courage and resilience that used to be a fundamental value of our nation. But instead of honoring that, politicians have used them as pawns and scapegoats to distract from their own failures and divide us against each other.

The greatest threat to your job isn't an immigrant — it's a billionaire.

We must Abolish ICE. Masked agents kidnapping innocent people off the streets and disappearing them into ICE facilities does not make us safer or protect American jobs. We need to hold the politicians who peddle these lies accountable. The agency is operating as a terror apparatus targeting immigrant families, asylum seekers, and long-rooted community members. We need to replace it with a humane, accountable immigration system focused on genuine public safety — not political theater.

We have seen what a tough-on-crime immigration system looks like, it's our current reality and it hasn't made us any safer.

It's time to build an immigration system grounded in dignity and justice: accessible pathways to citizenship, an end to inhumane detention practices and for-profit detention centers, reformation of our asylum system, full protection for DACA recipients and TPS holders, and a rejection of the cruel political stunts that dehumanize families. We are greater because of immigrants, not in spite of them.

END ALL WARS – SAFETY IS A HUMAN RIGHT

The US has spent over \$8 trillion on war since 2001, often with little accountability and devastating consequences for the people in the countries we've bombed, and for the veterans and families who've paid the price at home. We need to end our military entanglements and stop writing blank checks for endless conflict.

That means being honest about what our tax dollars are funding. Over \$30 billion has gone to support what nearly every major human rights organization in the world has called a genocide in Gaza. Seventy-five percent of Democrats want to end military funding to Israel, but too many representatives aren't listening. I support an immediate and unconditional arms embargo on Israel, ending all funding to Israel's military, and a just and lasting peace grounded in the equal human rights of all people in the region.

LEAD WITH DIPLOMACY - CONNECTION IS A HUMAN RIGHT

War is what happens when diplomacy fails. I believe the United States should lead with diplomacy: building relationships, reducing tensions, and treating other nations as partners rather than adversaries whenever possible.

That means taking seriously every theater where American foreign policy has chosen posture over progress. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is an illegal war of aggression, and I support Ukraine's right to self-determination and sovereignty, but the path to durable peace runs through negotiation, not endless escalation. The United States should be leading a serious, multilateral diplomatic process that protects Ukrainian sovereignty and gives Ukraine a real seat at the table, not outsourcing the war's resolution to backroom deals. Competition with China does not have to become conflict — we can sustain diplomatic engagement, cooperate on climate and AI governance, and pursue trade policy that protects American workers without spiraling into a trade war that hurts working families on both sides. And the decades-long embargo on Cuba has failed by every measure: it has not changed the Cuban government, has not helped the Cuban people, and has not served our interests. It has been a cruel tool against the Cuban people that has only deepened poverty and suffering. It is time to end it, restore full diplomatic relations, and treat Cuba as what it is: a sovereign nation and a neighbor.

Foreign policy built on punishment, isolation, and militarism does not produce freedom or security. Diplomacy does.

CONFRONT HATE IN ALL FORMS - SAFETY IS A HUMAN RIGHT

There is no place for anti-Black racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, or any other form of hate in our democracy and confronting hate requires more than rhetoric. It requires policy.

Hate in America is not a series of isolated incidents. It is the product of structures, histories, and political choices that have made certain communities more vulnerable to harm and more likely to be ignored when that harm arrives. Anti-Black racism is woven into our housing policy, our criminal justice system, and our healthcare disparities. Jewish communities are experiencing a documented surge in harassment, vandalism, and violence – violence that came to our own state with the firebombing attack in Boulder. Muslim Americans have faced state-sanctioned surveillance and a climate of suspicion manufactured by politicians who profit from fear. Immigrant communities are scapegoated, targeted, and stripped of dignity by the same forces that claim to stand for law and order. These are not separate problems. They are the same problem, showing up differently depending on who is being targeted.

Confronting hate means fully funding the **Nonprofit Security Grant Program** to protect houses of worship and community institutions. It means prosecuting hate crimes to the fullest extent of the law, ending discriminatory surveillance programs targeting Muslim communities, and building an immigration system that treats every person with dignity. It means curriculum standards that honestly teach American history — including its legacies of racism and exclusion. And it means refusing the political gamesmanship that uses one community's pain to silence another's. None of us are safe until all of us are safe.

TRANS BILL OF RIGHTS – IDENTITY IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Trans rights are human rights and the wave of anti-trans legislation sweeping state legislatures is not about protecting children or preserving fairness — it is a coordinated political campaign to strip a vulnerable community of their rights, their dignity, and their ability to exist openly in public life. The cruelty is the point.

I support a federal Trans Bill of Rights that guarantees:

- The right to accurate, self-affirming identity documents without bureaucratic obstacles or political interference
- Full and explicit protection from discrimination in employment, housing, healthcare, education, and public accommodations
- Access to gender-affirming care for all ages, with medical decisions made by patients, families, and doctors, not politicians
- Protection of trans youth from state-sponsored harassment, forced outing, and the criminalization of parents and providers who support them
- An end to the use of trans people as a political prop by politicians who have no interest in their wellbeing
- **The Equality Act** must be passed. Trans people are not a political issue. They're our neighbors, family members, community. Their dignity is not up for debate.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE - BODILY AUTONOMY IS A RIGHT

Reproductive rights are fundamental human rights, and they have been under sustained attack for decades. Now those attacks have become bans, and the consequences are already being felt: women denied care in emergencies, doctors afraid to practice medicine, and politicians making decisions that belong to patients and their families.

It's not enough to talk about protecting reproductive freedom. We must guarantee it.

It's time to codify the right to abortion in federal law. We must protect access to the full spectrum of reproductive care: contraception, maternal health, fertility treatment, and gender-affirming services. This includes addressing the maternal mortality crisis that disproportionately kills Black women in this country as an urgent public health priority. Protecting the right to travel across state lines for care, and **repealing the Comstock Act** provisions that anti-abortion extremists are trying to use to ban medication abortion nationwide, must be a priority.

Reproductive freedom is also economic freedom. It is the freedom to decide when and whether to start a family, to stay in the workforce, to plan a future. No one should have their body, their future, or their freedom controlled by politicians. It's time we make reproductive freedom a constitutional right.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION - PEACE OF MIND IS A RIGHT

Every day, nearly 130 people in the United States are killed with guns. Twice as many are shot and wounded. Gun violence is the leading cause of death among children and teenagers in America. This is not a tragic inevitability — it is a policy failure, and it is one we can fix.

I stand with Moms Demand Action and every family who has demanded that their representatives do more than offer thoughts and prayers. What works is evident.

I support:

Universal Background Checks: Background checks are the foundation of any serious gun safety system. More than 4 million illegal gun sales have been blocked since the federal background check system was established — but the law does not apply when a person buys from an unlicensed seller. Every gun sale, no exceptions. We must also close the three-day loophole that allows a sale to proceed even when a background check hasn't been completed.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (Red Flag Laws): When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see warning signs. Red flag laws allow them to ask a court to temporarily remove access to firearms before tragedy strikes. These laws save lives, and we should have one at the federal level.

Ban Assault Weapons + High-Capacity Magazines: Weapons of war do not belong in our communities. An assault weapons ban and a prohibition on high-capacity magazines would reduce the lethality of mass shootings and have no legitimate sporting or self-defense justification at the scale we are discussing.

Safe Storage Requirements: Far too many children are killed or injured by firearms that were unsecured in their own homes. Mandatory safe storage requirements save lives, especially from accidental shootings and suicide.

Repeal the Gun industry's Immunity Shield: No industry in America is shielded from accountability the way the gun industry is. **Repealing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act** would restore the ability of gun violence survivors to seek justice in court against manufacturers and sellers who act irresponsibly.

We also know that so often the everyday gun violence so many of our communities live through will not stop from these laws alone, but require us to tackle their root causes: poverty. Investing in disinvested and defunded communities with jobs, education, housing, and healthcare is one of the greatest tools we have to end the scourge of gun violence in our country.

DEMOCRATIZING AI - OWNING YOUR IP IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Artificial Intelligence has already begun to revolutionize every aspect of our lives, just like electricity did a century ago. We cannot afford to let the development of this technology continue without the input of everyday Americans, without democratic accountability, and without the cooperation of the global community. AI already touches healthcare, education, jobs, and justice. If we democratize it and ensure its development is transparent, equitable, and publicly accountable, we can unlock its potential to solve massive problems. If we don't, we risk concentrating power in the hands of a small number of unaccountable corporations + governments in ways that could be catastrophic and irreversible.

I support:

- A moratorium on new AI data centers until federal regulations are in place to protect labor, the environment, and our privacy
- Requiring new data centers to be powered entirely by clean energy — and to be built in ways that bring consumer electricity costs down, not up

- Open-access AI research to prevent the technology from being locked up entirely in corporate hands
- Strong oversight to prevent AI-driven discrimination in housing, hiring, criminal justice, and healthcare
- Worker protections against automation-driven displacement, including retraining support + a guarantee that productivity gains from AI flow to workers/shareholders
- Prohibiting AI-driven mass surveillance programs operated by federal, state, and local governments
- Robust international cooperation on AI governance: a framework for the global powers, including the United States, China, and the European Union, to establish shared safety standards, agree on limitations for the most dangerous applications, and create accountability mechanisms that apply across borders. The race to build the most powerful AI in the world without guardrails is a race to a cliff. The United States should lead the effort to build the guardrails, not abandon that leadership in the name of competition.
- The development of transformative technology cannot be left to the market and the national security state alone. It belongs to all of us.

CLIMATE + GREEN NEW DEAL - A FUTURE IS A HUMAN RIGHT

No generation has faced an existential crisis as urgent and all-encompassing as climate change. The science is undeniable: we are out of time. Wildfires, floods, and extreme heat are already devastating communities across the country — including here in Colorado, where wildfire seasons grow longer every year, our snowpack continues to shrink, and air quality crises have become a fact of life. We need to act now, not only to mitigate future damage, but to build resilience where disaster has already struck.

That means:

- Funding renewable energy development + a zero-emissions energy grid
- Investing in a **Green New Deal** that creates a just transition and millions of good union jobs in clean energy, climate resilience, and the modernize infrastructure
- Modernizing public transit systems so that people have alternatives to carbon-intensive transportation
- Holding polluters accountable and ending fossil fuel subsidies — the federal government should not subsidize the destruction of the planet
- Centering frontline and low-income communities, who bear the worst of climate harm while having contributed the least to causing it, in every climate decision
- The climate crisis and the economic crisis are not separate emergencies.
- They are the same story: a small number of people extracting everything they can from our planet and our communities and leaving the rest of us to deal with the consequences. The Green New Deal is a plan to build an economy that works for everyone on a planet that can sustain us.

POLICY GLOSSARY

Break Up Big Medicine Act: To prohibit pharmacy benefit managers, insurers, and prescription drug or medical device wholesalers from being under common ownership with certain medical service providers, and for other purposes.

Ultra Millionaire Tax: The wealthiest households in America pay their fair share. The bill would establish a 2% annual tax on the net worth of households and trusts valued at over \$50 million and an additional 1% annual surtax (3% total annual tax) on the net worth of households and trusts above \$1 billion, robust anti-evasion and avoidance measures, including \$100 million in new funding for the IRS and a 40% "exit tax" on the wealth of ultra-wealthy who renounce citizenship to avoid tax.

Seattle City Light: Seattle City Light generates + delivers affordable electricity to power the homes, businesses, and communities we serve. We provide carbon-neutral electricity, generated primarily from carbon-free hydropower. Owned by the city, averaging a third of the monthly utility costs.

John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act: To restore + modernize the protections of the original Voting Rights Act of 1965. It seeks to counter Supreme Court decisions, such as *Shelby County v. Holder* (2013) and *Brnovich v. DNC* (2021), which weakened federal oversight of discriminatory voting practices.

No Super PACs Act: To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to place reasonable limits on contributions to Super PACs which make independent expenditures, and for other purposes.

We the People Amendment (H.J.Res. 54): Aims to reverse the *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision by declaring that constitutional rights belong only to natural human beings, and that money is not equivalent to free speech.

DISCLOSE Act: (Democracy Is Strengthened by Casting Light on Spending in Elections Act) is a bill designed to increase transparency and combat "dark money" in U.S. elections. It forces organizations to reveal the true sources of large political donations.

PRO Act: is a comprehensive piece of federal labor legislation aimed at expanding worker rights to form unions, engage in collective bargaining, and take collective action in the workplace.

Green New Deal: The Green New Deal is a framework for a government agenda that outlines how large-scale public investment can strengthen the economy while addressing the climate crisis.