

December 2013



# CPC

# YEAR IN REVIEW



Members of the CPC stand with striking federal contract workers at the National Air & Space Museum

## FIGHTING FOR AMERICA'S PRIORITIES

2013 was a busy year for the Congressional Progressive Caucus. **We provided the firmest line of defense against cuts to Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security. Progressives in Congress also led the charge on new ideas, from a budget that reflects progressive priorities and promotes growth to making the minimum wage a living wage. In case you missed it, here are a few highlights:**

### **Back to Work Budget**

The Progressive Caucus put progressive priorities in the spotlight this year by introducing *the Back to Work Budget*, a plan to get our government, and our economy, back on track. The Budget would have produced 7 million new jobs in its first year, while still offering more than \$4 trillion in deficit reduction. Our budget protects Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, provides tax fairness for middle and working class families and brings defense spending into line with modern security needs while closing loopholes that reward companies for

moving jobs--and profits--overseas.

Read more about the Back to Work budget [here](#).

### **The Balancing Act**

Repealing the damaging budget cuts known as sequester was a major focus for the CPC in 2013. To that end, the CPC introduced *the Balancing Act*, a bill to eliminate the reckless across-the-board cuts by closing corporate tax loopholes, limiting deductions for the wealthiest taxpayers and eliminating wasteful Pentagon spending in order to invest in job creation, education and infrastructure. *(continued on p.2)*



### **Human Chain Against Chained CPI**

CPC Members (including Rep. DeLauro, pictured center) joined seniors and activists from across the U.S. to protest chained CPI.



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## Protecting Social Security

No matter who calls for entitlements to be on the table, our position has always been the same: **no cuts to Medicaid, Medicare or Social Security**. In 2013, we fought against proposed benefit cuts for seniors. In 2014, we'll continue to stand up for these earned benefits and the economic security they provide.

## Fighting for Low-Wage Workers

The CPC has pushed aggressively for a long-overdue **increase in the minimum wage**, which buys less today than it did in 1968. In addition to standing with striking fast-food workers across the country, we have **repeatedly urged** President Obama to issue an executive order to raise the pay of low income federal contract workers, which would provide a living wage for almost 2 million Americans.

## Standing up to the Shutdown

Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Whip Steny Hoyer joined the CPC outside the Capitol to demand Speaker Boehner **end the government shutdown**, then on its tenth day. Furloughed federal workers and union leaders braved rain and cold to join us and share their stories. The CPC also rallied against the shutdown on October 5, raising concerns about the hardships faced by federal workers.

## Immigration

CPC members have been actively pushing for a comprehensive immigration reform bill, with many joining the Fast for Families and some **being arrested** during an act of civil disobedience.

**The Congressional Progressive Caucus is fighting for fairness and an economy that works for all Americans.**

## #RAISETHEWAGE



Rep. Lewis, Atlanta



Rep. Jackson Lee, Houston



Rep. Cartwright, Brooklyn

## CPC STANDS WITH LOW WAGE WORKERS

Throughout the year, CPC fought to make the minimum wage a *living wage*, supported the fast-food and retail strikes in August (pictured above), and stood with federal contract workers at Washington, D.C.'s Union Station in July and at the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum in December.



## BACK TO WORK BUDGET



Reps. Lee, Schakowsky, Nadler, Chu and McDermott at a press conference for the CPC Back to Work Budget.

**“House Progressives have the best answer to Paul Ryan”**

- Ezra Klein

“The correct counterpart to the unbridled ambition of the Ryan budget isn't the cautious plan released by the Senate Democrats. It's the ["Back to Work"](#) budget released by the House Progressives. The “Back to Work” budget is about exactly what the name implies: Putting Americans back to work.”

## DEFENDING SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

**POLITICO**

**Government shutdown: Democrats preempt entitlement change talk**

“Liberal Democrats are already railing against the notion that entitlement programs could be scaled back as part of any grand bargain... At a press conference of the Congressional Progressive Caucus... the group said they aren't waiting to see if the murmurs that it's a possibility become reality.”

**Slate**

**“Congressional Progressive Caucus Shows You What a Liberal Budget Looks Like”**

- Matthew Yglesias

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## THE CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

The CPC is made up of sixty-seven Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and one U.S. Senator.

The CPC is committed to helping progressives both inside and outside of Congress work together effectively to promote progressive policies in Washington, D.C. and beyond.

## REP. KEITH ELLISON

CPC Co-Chair, MN-05

## REP. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

CPC Co-Chair, AZ-03

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