



JOHN YARMUTH

POLITICAL PARTY: DEMOCRATIC

POLITICAL RACE: CONGRESSIONAL

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What is your position on establishing liability protections for employers from frivolous lawsuits related to COVID-19?

Ideally, the federal government would provide guidelines for operating standards for businesses, and then immunity could be offered if the business met those standards. Liability would only occur if the business was grossly negligent or diverted from standards. Since the Trump administration has failed to provide guidance, state tort law should apply, and states should create their own standards. We should always discourage frivolous lawsuits, and there are likely to be many involving COVID-19, but unless businesses have uniform standards of care, federal blanket immunity could protect them from suit even when negligence is a factor.

What steps do you think the federal government needs to take to support small businesses throughout the pandemic and the economic recovery?

Until our economy is once again on solid footing, and Americans are back at work, I will continue to prioritize putting stimulus money directly in the hands of families and workers, directing financial resources for small businesses, and helping state and local governments that are bearing much of the financial brunt of this crisis. As we continue to navigate this crisis, I will support replenishing our small business lending programs, including the Paycheck Protection Program and the Emergency Injury Disaster Loans. We must continue doing all that we can to support small businesses so that they have the resources and flexibility necessary to succeed throughout Kentucky.

What is your perspective on the best way to increase federal funding for infrastructure projects?

Investing in infrastructure has proven to be one of our nation's most effective stimulus, in addition to being vital to a healthy nation and civic life. That is why I sponsored H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, which provides more than \$1.5 trillion to rebuild American infrastructure—not only our roads, bridges, and transit systems, but also our schools, housing, broadband access, and much more. These investments will create millions of jobs, reduce our carbon emissions, address long-standing disparities, and make communities safer.



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What steps do you think Congress should take to address racism and inequality in our society?

While a national conversation on ways to improve racism and inequality in America has certainly begun, it is increasingly clear that the change we need is not happening nearly fast enough. I believe our government has a responsibility to protect all Americans from discrimination and we should be doing more to ensure racial equality. Without structural change, our justice and economic systems will sadly continue to unfairly steal the lives and livelihoods of Black Americans.

We must immediately begin the difficult work of eliminating excessive, deadly force and improving the racial attitudes of both our law enforcement and the communities they police, reduce recidivism and our growing prison populations while also ensuring that when individuals are sentenced the punishment is fair and fits the crime, and restoring the Voting Rights Act to end voter suppression. It's long past time for our nation to acknowledge, through word and action, that Black Lives Matter.

What steps do you think Congress should take to lower the unemployment rate?

While in Congress, I have committed my time to ensuring a healthy and diverse economy throughout the Commonwealth. This pandemic has wreaked havoc on our country, across all sectors, including devastating unemployment numbers. While we are seeing some decreases, more than 1 million Americans have filed unemployment claims every week for six months. Without additional federal support, there is no end in sight for the millions of Americans families who are struggling to put food on the table, stay in their homes, and pay their bills. I will continue to pursue policies that will grow our economy, specifically by investing in education, job training, infrastructure, and health care, while providing assistance to those in our country who need it most.



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What is your plan to reduce health care costs for businesses?

Like many business leaders, from small business owners to CEO's of Fortune 500 companies, I believe relieving employers from the burden of providing coverage for their employees will empower American companies to raise employee wages, expand their businesses, and help to grow our nation's economy. In the meantime, it's time for Republicans to join the majority of Americans in their support for the Affordable Care Act and help strengthen important provisions that expand Medicare and Medicaid, and increase availability of subsidies and tax credits. In addition, because Congress has a responsibility to ensure all Americans have access to health care, I will continue to fight to make sure families can afford the services and medications they need without fear of surprise costs or lack of coverage due to job loss.

What policies do you support to restore free international trade but ensure fairness?

I generally support using all available options to end unfair trade practices which threaten our domestic manufacturers. That said, we should not jeopardize other domestic producers and hard-working families by pursuing ill-advised and misdirected tariff attacks against our allies.

What changes, if any, would you support to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017?

I voted against the Republican tax cut bill because it overwhelmingly benefited the wealthy and large corporations at the expense of everyone else. The 2017 tax law has done little to benefit middle class and struggling families, fueling corporate stock buybacks instead of wage increases. As a result of these tax cuts, our debt and deficits are skyrocketing, leading Congressional Republicans to call for massive cuts to Social Security and Medicare, education, infrastructure, research and development, and other national priorities. I support responsible tax reform efforts that will close loopholes, help hard-working Americans families get ahead, and allow us to invest in a strong economic future.