



US Senator Elizabeth Warren: Higher Heights Questionnaire

Issue & Policy Questions:

Healthcare

- 1. Please outline the specifics of your policy proposal on healthcare, including expanding access, what would be covered, lowering prescription drug costs and transition from the current system.**

Medicare for All should be the law of the land. I'm fighting for it because I believe every person should be able to get the mental and physical health care they need. In the transition to Medicare for All, I will fight to hold health insurers accountable, provide communities with the support they need to combat the opioid crisis, and bring down drug prices.

My bill, the Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act, would hold insurers accountable for providing adequate mental health benefits and ensure Americans receive the protections they are guaranteed by law during the transition to Medicare for All. My opioids legislation, the CARE Act, would invest \$100 billion in federal funding over the next ten years in states and communities to fight this crisis -- because that's what's needed to make sure every single person gets the treatment they need.

Beyond coverage, prescription drug prices are crushing families. My Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act would allow the Department of Health and Human Services to step in where the market has failed. HHS would manufacture generic drugs in cases in which no company is manufacturing a drug, when only one or two companies manufacture a drug and its price has spiked, when the drug is in shortage, or when a medicine listed as essential by the World Health Organization faces limited competition and high prices. I also believe Medicare should aggressively negotiate with drug companies and we should import drugs safely from other countries.

In addition, I have proposed the biggest set of anticorruption reforms since Watergate. These reforms are a necessary part of breaking the health insurance industry and the pharmaceutical

industry stranglehold on Washington in order to effectively pass and sustain legislation that transitions to a Medicare for All system.

2. How does your plan address the myriad of disparities – including chronic illness, underdiagnosing of illness, heart disease, mental health, access and affordability that negatively impact the health and well-being of Black women?

Tackling health disparities requires more than health care solutions. I have released a wide range of plans that aim to reduce disparities from every angle--protecting all women's [right to choose](#) when and how they start a family, taking on the high rates of maternal mortality, increasing access to [safe and affordable housing](#), reforming our [criminal justice system](#), expanding [Social Security](#) and much more.

When it comes to health, Black women have long experienced worse outcomes than their white counterparts and are disproportionately uninsured. Medicare for All addresses these coverage gaps. Everyone gets coverage. Everyone can see the doctor they need. Nobody goes broke.

Black communities also experience provider shortages and live in medically underserved areas. I have a plan to increase funding for Community Health Centers by 15 percent per year over the next five years, establish a \$25 billion dollar capital fund to improve access to care in health professional shortage areas, increase the cap on medical residencies by 15,000 over five years, and target residency placements in medically-underserved areas. I will also expand the National Health Service Corps' loan repayment programs to cover full loan repayment for 5 years of service.

We must also ensure that doctors listen to Black women. Decades of structural racism and discrimination mean that, too often, doctors and nurses don't hear Black women's health issues the same way they hear them from other women. My approach would apply successful reforms to maternity care by setting one price for an entire "episode" of care and holding health systems accountable for the outcome. We will also identify and invest in health care providers that are struggling.

Access to mental health care is a huge challenge for Black women and their families. While Medicare for All will help significantly, we also need to address mental health in our justice system. For the exact same crimes, Black Americans are more likely than whites to be arrested, charged, wrongfully convicted, and given harsher sentences. We must decriminalize mental health crises and invest in diversion programs for substance use disorder. Medicare for All will provide continuous access to critical mental health care services, but I'll also increase funding for "co-responder" initiatives that connect law enforcement to mental health care providers and experts.

3. What are your policy plans for the future of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid?

We must defend Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act against Republican attempts to rip health care away from people. But it's also time for the next step. President Obama said it best himself: it is now time for "[good new ideas](#)" like Medicare for All. Medicare for All should be the

law of the land. I'm fighting for it because I believe every person should be able to get the health care they need. I also support a variety of measures to hold health insurers accountable during the transition period to Medicare for All.

For years, I've helped lead the fight in Congress to expand Social Security. I have a plan as President to provide the biggest and most progressive increase in Social Security benefits in nearly half a century. My plan:

- Increases Social Security benefits immediately by \$200 a month — \$2,400 a year — for every current and future Social Security beneficiary in America.
- Updates outdated rules to further increase benefits for lower-income families, women, people with disabilities, public-sector workers, and people of color.
- Finances these changes and extends the solvency of Social Security by nearly two decades by asking the top 2% of families to contribute their fair share to the program.

Every single current Social Security beneficiary — about 64 million Americans — will immediately receive at least \$200 more per month. That's at least \$2,400 more per year to put toward home repairs, or visits to see the grandkids, or paying down the debt you still might owe. And every future beneficiary of Social Security will see at least a \$200-a-month increase too, whether you're 60 years old and nearing retirement or 20 years old and just entering the workforce.

4. How will your administration protect *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's legal right to reproductive rights and justice?

I'll fight my heart out to defend a woman's fundamental right to access safe, legal abortion and control of her body at home and abroad to make sure that we don't go back -- not now, not ever.

First, I would work to pass federal, statutory rights that parallel the constitutional right in *Roe v. Wade*. These federal statutory rights would invalidate contradictory state laws and end the political games being played by right-wing courts to try and narrow *Roe's* protections. Second, I would work with Congress to preempt state efforts that functionally limit access to reproductive health care like geographical, physical, and procedural restrictions and requirements, and restrictions on medication abortion. A bill already proposed in Congress, The Women's Health Protection Act, would provide the mechanism to block these kinds of schemes concocted to deny women access to care. Congress should pass it. Congress must also pass the EACH Woman Act, which would also prohibit abortion restrictions on private insurance. And we should ensure that all future health coverage — including Medicare for All — includes contraception and abortion coverage.

5. How does your healthcare plan address access and affordability issues to the full range of reproductive services including contraception, comprehensive sex education, STI prevention and care, disparities in prenatal, pregnancy and postnatal care, which disproportionately impacts Black women, women of color, women who may not be able to afford these services and/or may not have the ability to travel long distances to access these services?

The women of color who have championed the reproductive justice movement teach us that we must go beyond choice to ensure meaningful access for every woman in America — not just the privileged and wealthy few. We must go beyond abortion, to ensure access to contraception, STI prevention and care, comprehensive sex education, care for pregnant moms, safe home and work environments, adequate wages, and so much more. We must build a future that protects the right of all women to have children, the right of all women to not have children, and the right to bring children up in a safe and healthy environment.

As President, I will ensure equal access and reproductive justice. Securing a federal statutory right to Roe and ensuring that reproductive health care is available to every woman in America is just the beginning. Many Black women depend on Title X clinics for essential reproductive health services. We must undo the current Administration's efforts to undermine women's access to reproductive health care — including ending Trump's gag rule and fully support Title X family planning funding. And we must crack down on violence at abortion clinics and ensure that women are not discriminated against at work or anywhere else for the choices they made about their bodies.

6. Do you support the repeal of the Hyde Amendment? Why or why not?

Yes. All women — no matter where they live, where they're from, how much money they make, or the color of their skin — are entitled to access the high-quality, evidence-based reproductive health care that is envisioned by Roe. Making that a reality starts with repealing the Hyde Amendment, which blocks abortion coverage for women under federally funded health care programs like Medicaid, the VA, and the Indian Health Service.

Economy

1. How will your administration address the racial wealth gap, the pay gap for women and promote economic security for middle, and low-income Americans?

Over the years, America's middle class has been deliberately hollowed out. And families of color have been systematically discriminated against and denied their chance to build some security. Washington has worked great for the wealthy and well-connected, but after decades of largely flat wages and exploding household costs, millions of families can barely breathe. For generations, people of color have been shut out of their chance to build wealth. And our society and our economy demand so much of women, with a particular burden on Black, Latina, Native American, Asian, and other women of color.

We need to make big structural change to the economy so that it works better for everyone. Each of my economic plans aims in that direction:

- My Valuing the Work of Women of Color plan lays out the set of executive actions I will take on day one of the Warren Administration to boost wages for women of color and open up new pathways to the leadership positions they deserve.
- With my new Ultra-Millionaire Tax on wealth above \$50 million, we can bring in nearly \$3 trillion in revenue over ten years -- enough to cancel student loan debt for 42 million Americans, provide universal free two-year, four-year, and technical public college, and universal child care and early learning for every child ages 0 to 5.
- My housing plan builds or rehabs 3.2 million new housing units, bringing down rents by 10% and creating 1.5 million good new jobs. It also creates a first-of-its-kind down-payment assistance program for first-time homebuyers who live in a formerly redlined neighborhoods or communities that were segregated by law and are still currently low-income. If they qualify, they are entitled to a substantial grant they can put towards a down payment on a home anywhere in the country. Its cost is covered by returning the estate tax to the levels at the end of the George W. Bush Administration and instituting more progressive rates above those levels.
- My economic patriotism agenda would use every tool the government has to create and defend good American jobs -- which means overhauling our approach to trade, manufacturing, and financial regulation. My Green Manufacturing plan alone would invest \$2 trillion over ten years in clean energy technology made right here in America, creating more than one million good new jobs.
- My Accountable Capitalism plan would empower American workers by authorizing them to elect 40% of Board members of big American corporations and by legally obligating companies to consider the interests of their workers, not just their shareholders.

2. How do your plans for economic growth address investment in underserved communities?

My plan to level the playing field for entrepreneurs of color will create a Small Business Equity Fund to help close the startup capital gap for entrepreneurs of color. This new program will be run by my new Department of Economic Development. The new program will have \$7 billion in funding to provide grants to entrepreneurs — not loans or loan guarantees — to fund these businesses. And my plan calls for states to work with investment managers of color to determine who to allocate these \$7 billion in grants.

Companies with federal contracts employ roughly a quarter of the U.S. workforce. On day one of the Warren Administration I will take a set of executive actions that impose new rules on companies that hope to receive federal contracts. These rules will take a big step towards creating equal opportunities for Black, Latina, Native American, Asian and other women of color.

As president, I will strengthen and target enforcement against systematic discrimination. Sectors that disproportionately employ Black and Brown women — such as the low-wage service industry — have higher rates of discriminatory practices. My EEOC will more closely

monitor these fields and bring in top talent to enforce claims in those areas. It will also issue first-of-its-kind guidance on enforcing claims involving the intersectional discrimination that women of color face from the interlocking biases of racism and sexism.

These actions are a first step. We need to do much more to make sure that women of color have a fair shot at opportunity and financial security. That means everything from enacting my affordable housing, universal child care, and student debt cancellation plans to passing legislation to expand protections for domestic workers to creating stronger enforcement mechanisms that protect the right of all workers — especially the most vulnerable — to call out discrimination when they see it.

3. Do you support a \$15 minimum wage? Why or why not?

Yes. We need to turn the minimum wage into a living wage. After my daddy had a heart attack and couldn't go back to work, my mom, who had never worked outside the home, walked to Sears and got a minimum wage job. That minimum wage job saved our house and our family. This story isn't just a story about my mother, but about millions of Americans who reach down and find what they have to find to pull themselves up. It's also a story about government. When my mom got that job at Sears, the minimum wage would support a family of three, take care of the mortgage and utilities, and put food on the table. Today, a full-time minimum wage job will not keep a momma and a baby out of poverty and that is wrong. That is why I am a co-sponsor of the Raise the Wage Act, which would raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

4. How will your administration address the disparities in access to capital for Black women owned small businesses?

Every American should have a fair shot at starting a small business. But today, the playing field is tilted against entrepreneurs of color. The typical Black entrepreneur starts a business with \$35,000 in capital — a third of the startup capital for the typical white entrepreneur — and other entrepreneurs of color face similar challenges. The small business gap is another example of how the racial wealth gap in America holds back our economy and hurts Black, Latinx, Native American, and other minority families and communities.

My plan for a Small Business Equity Fund, mentioned above, will have \$7 billion in funding to provide grants to entrepreneurs — not loans or loan guarantees — to fund these businesses. I've also pushed the federal government to seek out investment managers of color to manage federal funds. On day one of my presidency, I will direct all federal pension and retirement funds to seek out a more diverse set of investment managers, building on successful programs like the Smaller Asset Managers Pilot Program. And I will go further, requiring states and cities administering my new Equity Fund to work with diverse investment managers too — putting \$7 billion in the hands of minority- and women-owned investment managers.

Finally, while the Trump Administration has tried to slash funding for the Minority Business Development Agency — an organization dedicated to empowering entrepreneurs of color with access to funding networks and business advice — I'll triple the MBDA's budget so it can expand on its good work.

5. How do your plans address climate change and “green jobs” impact communities of color?

The Green New Deal commits us to a fair and just transition for all communities and workers -- and that means recognizing that climate change doesn't affect every community equally. Lower-income communities, communities of color, and indigenous peoples have often borne the brunt of climate change and other environmental harms. At the same time, communities dependent on the fossil fuel economy worry about what this transition will mean for their jobs.

Justice must be at the center of our response to climate change, which is why I've committed to elevating an environmental justice council to report directly to the White House. But we won't create true justice by cleaning up polluted neighborhoods and tweaking a few regulations at the EPA. We need to prioritize communities that have experienced historic disinvestment, across their range of needs: affordable housing, better infrastructure, good schools, access to health care, and good jobs. We need affordable energy and clean drinking water -- for everyone. We need strong, resilient communities, prepared and properly resourced to withstand the impacts of climate change. I've committed to an equity screen to direct one-third of my proposed climate investment into the most vulnerable communities -- a commitment that would funnel at least \$1 trillion into these areas over the next decade. I also believe we need to create processes centered on and led by those living on the front lines of climate change, who know best what their communities need.

The task before us is huge -- it will require millions of workers to complete massive retrofits to our nation's infrastructure and our manufacturing base. It will also require readjusting our economic approach to ensure that communities of color and others who have been systematically harmed from our fossil fuel economy are not left further behind during the transition to clean energy. We cannot succeed in fighting climate change unless the people who have the skills to get the job done are in the room -- as full partners. My plan commits \$3 trillion to combat climate change, leveraging additional trillions in private investment and creating millions of good, union jobs with accompanying pay scales and benefits. And as President, I will prioritize programs to empower workers who may be hurt by the transition to a more green economy, including those currently employed in the fossil fuel industry. That means providing them with financial security -- including early retirement benefits, job training, union protections, and guaranteeing wage and benefit parity for affected workers.

You can read my full climate plans [here](#).

6. Do you support reparations? If so, please describe your specific policy proposals to address the systematic and institutional legacy of slavery, Jim Crow and other forms of racism and discrimination. If not, please explain.

Yes. I strongly support legislation to create a commission of experts to provide recommendations to Congress on reparations, including on questions about what kind of reparations are appropriate and how best to provide them. America was built on the backs of slaves and we must acknowledge this history and confront it head on.

Apart from reparations, we must also act aggressively to address the racial wealth gap. Coming out of the Great Depression, America built a great middle class, but systematic discrimination locked African-American families out from being part of it.

I've proposed plans that would substantially narrow the racial wealth gap – like establishing a minimum \$50 billion fund for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions. And my Universal Child Care plan makes child care and early education free for millions of families and affordable for everyone, while paying child care workers, who are disproportionately women of color, like comparable public school teachers. I've also proposed a new set of executive actions that I will take on day one as president to boost wages for women of color and open up new pathways to the leadership positions they deserve. And I've proposed creating a \$7 billion Small Business Equity Fund to help close the startup capital gap for entrepreneurs of color. Finally, my housing plan tackles our government's history of racist redlining and invests \$2 billion to support underwater borrowers in these areas so they can build more economic security.

A number of these proposals would be funded by my Ultra-Millionaire Tax -- a two-cent tax on net worth over \$50 million. This new tax would only apply to the 75,000 wealthiest families in the country, but it would generate nearly \$3 trillion in revenue over ten years.

Criminal Justice Reform/Gun Violence/Judiciary

1. Please outline the specifics of your plan to address criminal justice reform and include relevant information on returning citizens, over-policing and sentencing reforms.

We need to reform our entire criminal justice system. We won't achieve this by nibbling around the edges — we need to tackle the problem at its roots, reimagining how we think about public safety to include safe and affordable housing, health care, good jobs, and access to education and opportunity for all our children.

It starts with what we choose to criminalize. It is clear that the punitive “tough on crime” approach was a mistake, and I support repealing the 1994 crime bill and reducing and eliminating mandatory minimum sentences. We must address the legacy of the War on Drugs, including by legalizing marijuana and eliminating the crack/cocaine sentencing disparity. We should end the criminalization of poverty by eliminating cash bail and reducing fines and fees. And I'll expand opportunities for clemency, including by establishing a board to make recommendations directly to the White House.

We must also look at how law enforcement and prosecutors engage with our communities and the accused. We should expand resources for public defenders, rein in prosecutorial abuses, and appoint a more diverse judicial bench. We need real policing reform, including ending racially discriminatory policing and establishing a national standard for the use of force. We'll provide training and resources to help police departments meet high federal standards. We'll expand federal oversight through pattern or practice investigations -- and we'll reform qualified immunity to hold law enforcement officers who violate individual rights accountable.

We should invest in programs that provide treatment and rehabilitation behind bars, eliminate solitary confinement, and ensure that those incarcerated are treated with dignity. We should remove barriers that too often prevent returning citizens from successfully reintegrating into their communities after they've served their time, including by reducing needlessly restrictive parole requirements and establishing a certificate of recovery for nonviolent offenders who maintain clean records.

It is a false choice to suggest a tradeoff between safety and mass incarceration. By spending our budgets not on imprisonment but on community services that lift people up, we'll decarcerate and make our communities safer. That's the way we'll create real law and order and real justice in our country. You can read my full plan [here](#).

2. How will your administration work with the Department of Justice to handle police misconduct and death in custody issues in state and local police departments?

Everyone is less safe when trust is eroded between the police and the communities they serve. Yet we've continued to allow policing practices that are both ineffective and discriminatory. It's time to fundamentally change how police work is done in America -- funding what works; replacing failed policies with effective, evidence-based practices that do not violate individual rights; and reframing our approach to public safety to prioritize prevention over punishment.

I'll end stop-and-frisk and other racially discriminatory policies by directing the Justice Department to withhold federal funding from law enforcement agencies that continue to employ it and other similar practices, and I'll work with Congress to pass legislation to prohibit profiling at all levels of law enforcement. I support expanding funding for body cameras along with policies to ensure consistent and responsible camera use. I will direct my administration to develop and apply evidence-based standards for the use of force for federal law enforcement -- including incorporating proven approaches and strategies like de-escalation, verbal warning requirements, and the use of non-lethal alternatives -- and provide training and resources to help police departments meet them. My Justice Department will establish a rigorous and systematic process to collect data on fatal police shootings, ethics issues, misconduct complaints, or use of force incidents. We'll use that data to inform expanded federal oversight. I'll reverse the Sessions guidance limiting the use of consent decree investigations, and triple funding for the Office of Civil Rights to allow for increased investigations of police violence and death in custody. I also support qualified immunity reform to ensure that law enforcement officers who are found to have violated the Constitution are held accountable.

You can read my full plan for criminal justice [here](#).

3. Please outline your specific policy proposals on gun safety. Do you view gun violence as a public health issue?

Gun violence is a public health crisis, and Black and Latinx Americans have borne the brunt of it. In the past, those statistics have been used to justify increased policing and strict sentencing laws. We've got a chance to show that we've learned from the past and to chart a new path.

In 2017, almost 40,000 people died from guns in the United States. My goal as President, and our goal as a society, will be to reduce that number by 80%. We might not know how to get all the way there yet. But we'll start by implementing solutions that we believe will work.

Here's what that will look like. As president, I will immediately take executive action to rein in an out-of-control gun industry by requiring nearly all gun sellers to obtain a federal license, and directing my government to investigate and prosecute all those who violate existing gun laws.

I support common sense reforms including federal licensing, background checks, waiting periods, reporting on multiple purchases, raising the minimum age to purchase a gun, and more. I believe we need a new federal assault weapons ban and a ban on high-capacity magazines. And as president, I'll establish a grant program to invest in and pilot community-focused, evidence-based intervention programs at scale.

To achieve all this, we need to break the NRA's stranglehold on Congress. We'll do that by passing sweeping anti-corruption legislation and eliminating the filibuster. Then I will send Congress comprehensive gun violence prevention legislation. I will sign it into law within my first 100 days. And we will revisit this comprehensive legislation every single year to continually reduce the number of gun deaths in America.

You can read my full gun safety plan [here](#).

4. Do you support the death penalty?

No. I oppose the death penalty. Studies show that capital punishment is often applied in a manner biased against people of color and those with a mental illness. A Warren Administration will reverse Attorney General Barr's decision to move forward with federal executions, and Congress should abolish the death penalty.

5. How will you strengthen the Voting Rights Act, protect voting rights and ballot access?

Right now, our democracy faces serious threats at home and abroad. Strengthening it requires major changes, so that each and every voice can be heard. I have a plan to strengthen our democracy that would establish uniform federal rules to make voting easy. Rules like expanding same-day and automatic registration and early voting, making election day a holiday, ending voter purges, and requiring independent redistricting commissions to end partisan gerrymandering. My plan will end practices that make voting more difficult and overturn every single voter suppression law that racist politicians use to steal votes from people of color. And we will pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Native American Voting Rights Act to shut down a host of festering discriminatory practices.

My plan also includes a federal-state partnership to give states a strong financial incentive to follow these rules in their state and local elections – and to maximize voter turnout. If state or local election officials choose to ignore these federal rules and instead move to violate them, the new independent Secure Democracy Administration would have the authority to seek a court order to step in and guarantee that every voter has access to the polls unless or until the state shows its intent to fully comply with federal law.

6. Will your administration recognize violence perpetrated by white supremacist hate groups as acts of domestic terrorism?

Yes. White supremacists are a domestic terrorism threat. White supremacy is completely incompatible with our American values, and it is a threat to American safety and security. Instead of a president who winks and nods as white nationalism gets stronger in this country, we need a president who will use all the tools available to prevent it.—and who will use the full force of the Justice Department to go after them.

7. What type of judges will you seek to appoint to the Federal bench and the Supreme Court?

The justice system should reflect the country it serves. Judicial appointments are primarily white and male, and large numbers tend to be corporate lawyers and former prosecutors. Diversity of background and experience matter. That's why I have pushed for increasing the professional diversity of our federal judiciary to insulate the courts from corporate capture, and why I support gender and racial diversity for judicial nominees. I'll appoint a diverse slate of judges, including those who have a background defending civil liberties or as public defenders.

We must also end corruption in Washington. That's why I've proposed the biggest anti-corruption bill since Watergate. It is an aggressive set of reforms that would fundamentally change the way Washington does business – including restoring faith that ordinary people can get a fair shake in our courts. That means strengthening the code of conduct for federal judges, including Supreme Court justices, so they can't engage in stock trading, get paid by corporations to attend events, receive gifts for giving speeches, or go on fancy hunting trips and lavish getaways funded by billionaires.

Federal judges and Supreme Court justices should also be committed to increasing transparency. Americans should be able to easily see what is happening in the judicial process, public filings should be more easily accessible and free online, and Supreme Court proceedings should be audio live-streamed. My selection criteria for a Supreme Court justice would prioritize someone who would adhere to this code of conduct – because everything is at stake with respect to Supreme Court justices.

I will also remake the federal courts with nominees who support working people. That starts at the top: I pledge as President to nominate a demonstrated advocate for workers to fill any Supreme Court vacancy. We can't afford more decisions from the Supreme Court and appellate courts that strip workers of rights and hand more power to corporations.

Education

1. Please outline your platform on K-12 education, and Post-Secondary education opportunities other than two-or four-year college like apprenticeships, trade school etc.?

This is personal for me. I graduated from a commuter college that cost \$50 a semester, and that opened a million doors for me. I worked as a public school teacher. Every kid deserves an equal shot at a good public education -- no matter where they live, who their parents are, or how much money they have. A strong federal role in public education is necessary to make sure our public education system creates opportunity for all our kids.

That means supporting wraparound services, so that students can receive the care – including dental services – they need to learn and thrive in school. I will increase support for community schools, high-quality afterschool programs, and expanded learning time programs. I will fully fund IDEA so students with disabilities get a fair shot to succeed. We also need to make sure that students are receiving a well-rounded education that includes arts, music, and physical education. And we should be focusing more attention on school climate and supporting a more diverse teaching force.

All students, regardless of their means or background, should have access to career training that provides a path to a good-paying job and middle-class lifestyle. My universal free public college plan includes public two-year colleges, which help supplement trade and apprenticeship programs. But we need to further expand access so that people can find good-paying jobs without needing a college degree. And I will increase the amount we invest tenfold to make a \$20 billion commitment to apprenticeship programs for the next ten years. Additionally, my plan to increase Social Security benefits lets workers elect to exclude up to three years of training or apprenticeship from their lifetime earnings calculation for Social Security benefits, increasing their benefits.

2. Do you support charter schools?

I believe we should ban for-profit charters and charters that outsource their operations to for-profit companies. I have publicly opposed the expansion of charter schools in Massachusetts. All existing charter schools should be held to the same transparency and accountability standards to which we hold public schools. And I support a moratorium on federal funding for the expansion of charter schools and vouchers.

3. How will your education plans address the school to prison pipeline, the over-discipline of Black girls and protect programs like STEM?

We must break the school-to-prison pipeline. Every child should have the opportunity to receive the support they need to thrive inside and outside of the classroom. Adverse childhood experiences such as poverty, violence at home, homelessness, family separation, or an incarcerated caretaker are proven to negatively impact child development.

I will equip schools with resources to meet their students' needs by providing access to health care to support the physical, mental, and social development of children, improve their overall school readiness and providing early intervention services. We should decriminalize truancy,

increase school mental health personnel, and provide schools with resources to train teachers and administrators in best practices for discipline, trauma-informed interactions, and de-escalation. We should require that any police department receiving federal funds provide mandatory training in the scientific and psychological roots of discrimination, youth development, and de-escalation tactics to officers assigned to school campuses. I'll rescind

Trump's executive order that allows school districts to participate in the 1033 program, giving them access to military-grade weapons. And I'll fully fund the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Education so that it can investigate school districts with dramatic disparities in school disciplinary actions.

The federal government is responsible for taking action to make college affordable, strengthen early childhood education, and improve STEM education and training. The federal government should work alongside teachers to improve the quality of our schools. This is why I co-sponsored the STEM Master Teacher Corps Act, which became law as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act in 2015.

4. Do you support increasing teacher pay?

Yes. To effectively support our students, it is essential that we support our educators. The number one way we support our teachers all across this country is that we have stronger teacher's unions because when they get into the fight, they not only fight for themselves and their compensation. They fight for their kids. As president, I will fight to strengthen the right of workers to strike. In the last few years, there have been a notable number of teacher strikes. I supported these efforts -- including the striking teachers in Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Kentucky. My labor plan builds on these efforts and further empowers workers by banning the permanent replacement of strikers; protecting the rights of workers to engage in repeated, short-term strikes -- sometimes called pattern or intermittent strikes, appointing NLRB members who recognize that such strikes are legal under the NLRA; supporting the organizing rights of all public sector workers, including teachers; and committing to a very high standard for intervening in strikes.

Beyond supporting teachers' unions, it is essential that we fund public schools both at the state and federal level. When we sufficiently fund schools, we can pay our teachers fairly and part help more kids. In the Senate, I co-sponsored Senator Booker's Supporting the Teaching Profession Through Revitalizing Investments in Valuable Educators (STRIVE) Act, which invests in teaching preparation programs and increases diversity in teaching by providing financial assistance for teaching certification and licensing fees to low-income and other underrepresented communities.

As President, I will continue to fight for these policies to help ensure our teachers. one of the things that will most help our teachers is canceling student loan debt. My higher education plan would help 42 million Americans--including teachers--get out from under crippling debt and potentially increase the number of [Black and Latinx teachers](#).

5. How will your administration address funding disparities among school districts?

Decades after Brown v. Board of Education, American schools are still largely segregated and majority white districts receive \$23 billion more in funding than majority non-white school districts. This disparity in funding is one key driver of the racial wealth gap in this country. If we want to create an America that closes this gap, we must make sure that students at every

public school in America have the resources and support they need to learn and thrive--regardless of where they live or their race.

In the Senate, I've strongly supported policies to make sure that federal money goes to the schools that need it most. I am a co-sponsor of Senator Murphy's Strength in Diversity Act, which gives grants to school districts to promote socioeconomic and racial integration and seeks to develop evidence-based policies to address these serious issues. I am also a co-sponsor of Senator Reed's Rebuild America's Schools Act, which provides funds to states for local competitive grants for school repair, renovation, and construction.

As President, I will continue to fight for fair funding for all schools and students.

6. How will you address the student loan crisis in America?

Student loan debt is crushing millions of families and acting as an anchor on our economy. It's reducing home ownership rates. It's leading fewer people to start businesses. It's forcing students to drop out of school before getting a degree. It's a problem for all of us. My plan for broad student debt cancellation will:

- Cancel some student loan debt for more than 95% of the nearly 45 million Americans who have it.
- Wipe out student loan debt entirely for more than 75% of the Americans with that debt.
- Substantially increase wealth for Black and Latinx families and reduce both the Black-White and Latinx-White wealth gaps.
- Provide an enormous middle-class stimulus that will boost economic growth, increase home purchases, and fuel a new wave of small business formation.

We must ensure that we never have another student debt crisis again by recognizing that a public college education is like a public K-12 education — a basic public good that should be available to everyone with free tuition and zero debt at graduation. My plan for universal free college will:

- Give every American the opportunity to attend a two-year or four-year public college without paying a dime in tuition or fees.
- Make free college truly universal — not just in theory, but in practice — by making higher education of all kinds more inclusive and available to every single American, especially lower-income, Black, and Latinx students, without the need to take on debt to cover costs.
- Invest an additional \$100 billion over the next ten years in Pell Grants — and expand who is eligible for a Grant — to make sure lower-income and middle-class students have a better chance of graduating without debt.

7. How do your plans for higher education address HBCU's?

My plan for universal free public college creates a fund for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs). The fund will have a minimum of

\$50 billion, but the Secretary of Education will have the authority to increase the amount of money in the fund as needed to ensure that spending per-student at those schools is comparable to colleges in the area. Private HBCUs and MSIs would also be able to opt into the federal free-tuition program available to public colleges. I will also make additional federal funding available to states that demonstrate substantial improvement in enrollment and graduation rates for lower-income students and students of color.