

## Progressive Policy Handbook Offers Practical Solutions

### EPI Plan Would Remedy “A Generation of Mistaken Policies”



#### NEWS FROM EPI

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WASHINGTON – Americans are ready for fundamental change to restore economic security and opportunity, the Economic Policy Institute declares in a new handbook that offers concrete steps to address the most pressing economic problems of the day.

The proposed solutions in EPI’s *Plan to Revive the American Economy* include a strategy to fix crumbling infrastructure and create new jobs, particularly green, renewable-energy jobs; a plan to enhance retirement security; and a detailed health care plan that would save money while providing coverage for every American.

In addition, EPI calls for labor law reforms that restore the rights of workers to form unions, and vigorous enforcement of wage, hour, and occupational safety and health laws, which have been largely ignored by the Bush administration’s Department of Labor.

“These policies will provide a substantial return to the overall economy,” said EPI President Lawrence Mishel. “Investment in economic security and jobs will stimulate growth and prosperity – a shared prosperity that rewards people who work hard and play by the rules. We don’t have that now.”

EPI is aggressively pushing the policy handbook into the political debate, supplying copies to candidates for public office, offering presentations to groups at the party conventions, and providing materials to disseminate the message through progressive organizations and the labor movement. Copies are available on [the EPI website](http://theEPIwebsite) and [www.sharedprosperity.org](http://www.sharedprosperity.org).

The handbook is the result of more than a year of research and analysis conducted under the banner of EPI’s *Agenda for Shared Prosperity*, which drew from leading economists and public officials.

Many ideas from the *Agenda for Shared Prosperity* have been embraced by leading political candidates, and EPI’s health care plan, among other proposals, has been incorporated into the Democratic Party platform.

In addition to policies restoring security, EPI also urges removing the obstacles to opportunity, attacking poverty head on, expanding access to good education and fixing our illegal immigration problem with realistic and humane solutions.

In the concluding chapter on “Trade and Global Integration,” EPI proposes a path to restore American leadership on the global stage, by adopting fair trade policies and stimulating U.S. manufacturing with new competitiveness policies.

“We need solutions on the scale of our problems. Tinkering around the edges won’t do,” said EPI President Larry Mishel. “Our economy is out of whack, thanks to a generation of mistaken policies that have failed to reward work, encouraged jobs to go offshore and essentially told people that they’re on their own.”

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*The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank that researches the impact of economic trends and policies on working people in the United States and around the world. EPI’s mission is to inform people and empower them to seek solutions that will ensure broadly shared prosperity and opportunity.*