

# A Bipartisan Roadmap for Retirement Security

A Presentation to the United States Conference of Mayors

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ECONOMIC INNOVATION GROUP

# **America's Retirement Security Problem**

#### • Too Many Americans Face Retirement Insecurity

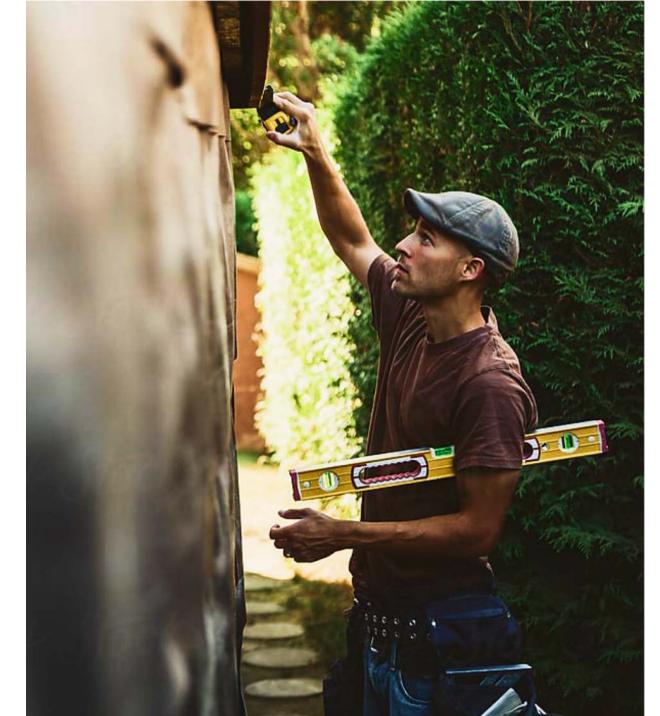
- o 81% of American voters are concerned about their retirement security.
- Half of Americans are on pace to take a standard-of-living cut in retirement.
- Half of U.S. families have no retirement accounts.

#### • Insecurity is Higher for Low-Income Families

- Median net worth for the bottom 25% of families is only \$310.
- Median retirement savings balance for the bottom 50% of families is \$0.

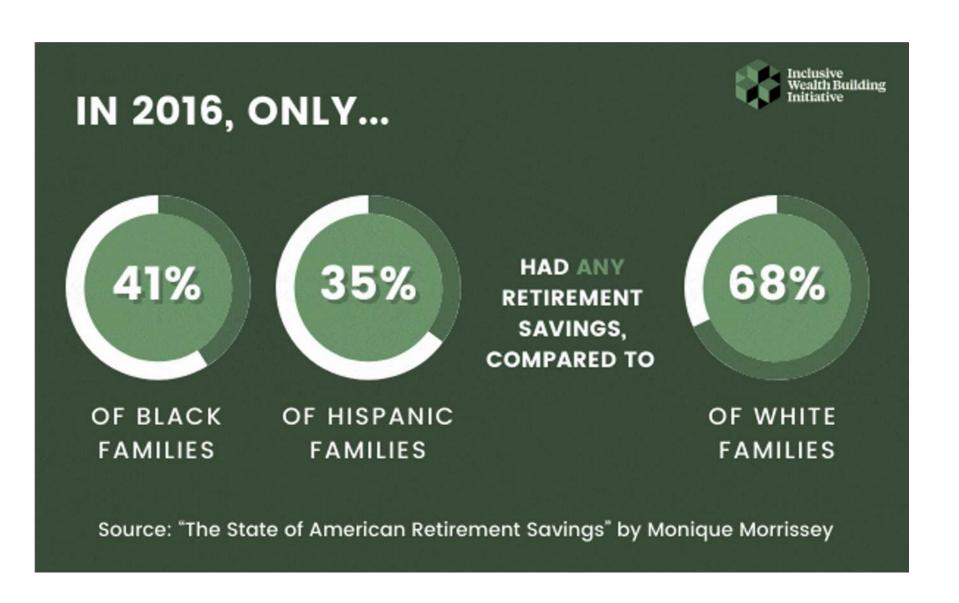
#### • In America's Cities...

- 28 percent of workers are in low-access industries.
- Six percent in gig economy, which generally lacks benefits.





### Inequitable Access to Retirement Plans



#### Black and Hispanic workers

- Lower levels of access to employer retirement plans.
- Half the total retirement wealth of white households.

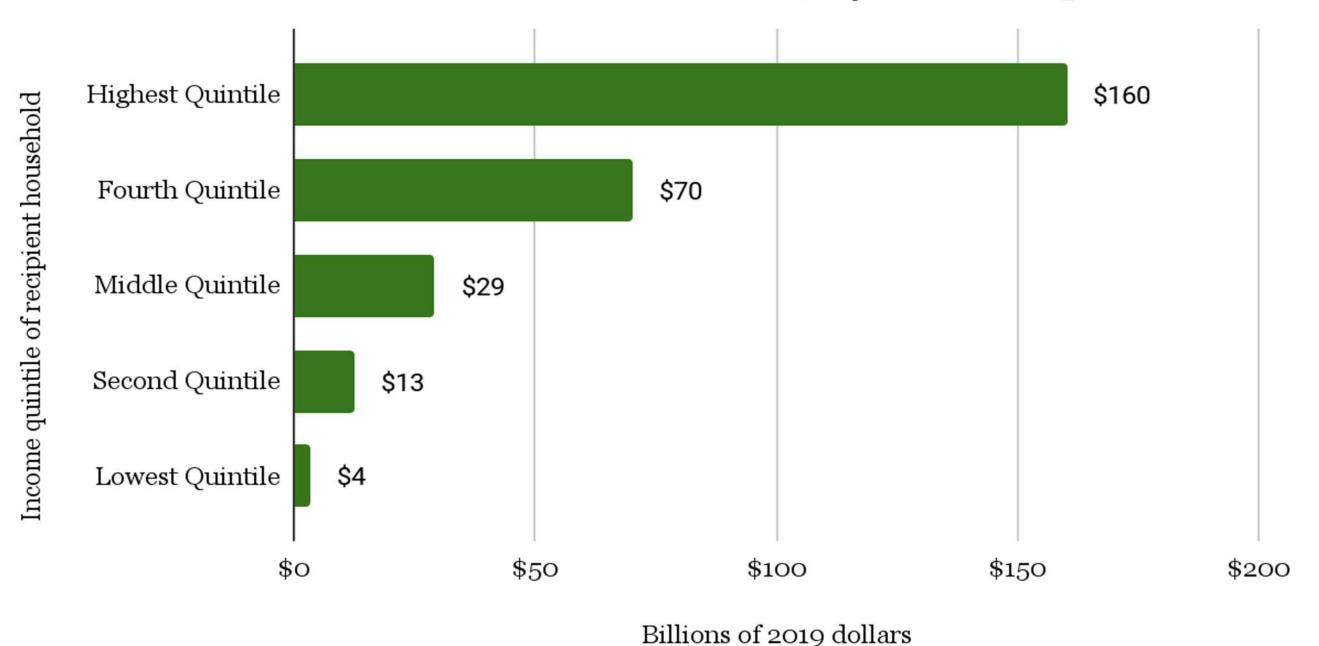
#### Women

- Hold 70% of average man's retirement savings.
- Higher life expectancy and unpaid care burden.



# Federal Retirement Tax Benefits Disproportionately Accessed by Wealthy Households

#### Total Federal Retirement Tax Benefit, By Income Quintile



Source: Congressional Budget Office. 2021. "The Distribution of Major Tax Expenditures in 2019." Publication 57413, Congressional Budget Office, Washington, D.C.



# **Congressional Working Group on Retirement Security**

#### Membership

- Sen. John Hickenlooper (D-CO)
- Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)
- o Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL)
- o Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)



#### • Goals

- Empower low- and middle-income workers to save for retirement.
- Introducing legislation in the coming months.
- o Looking at the Thrift Savings Plan as inspiration and guidance.



# TSP a Proven Model for Retirement Security

#### • Key Design Features

- Matching contributions
- Automatic enrollment
- Low fees
- Simple investment options

### • Successfully Reaches Underserved Populations

- o 90%+ participation among Black and low-income federal employees.
- Increasing from 77% and 74% before adopting auto-enrollment.





# **USCM** Resolution on Retirement Security

#### • Sponsors:

- o Mayor Michael B. Hancock, Denver.
- Mayor Randall Woodfin, Birmingham.



#### • The resolution Calls on Congress to...

- o develop bipartisan solutions to strengthen retirement security for low- and middle-income workers.
- o look towards the TSP as a model for improving access to well-designed savings plans.



#### Thank You

## **Questions?**

For More Information Visit the Inclusive Wealth Building Initiative Website at <a href="https://inclusivewealth.eig.org/">https://inclusivewealth.eig.org/</a>

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