

## **Fact Sheet: Changes to Build Back Better Act Encouraged by Golden**

Over the last several months, Congressman Golden has pointed out provisions of the Build Back Better Act that need fixing and worked with the White House and congressional colleagues to address those issues in the bill. As one of the most independent voices in the House, the congressman has been able to use his leverage to help make progress on many of the issues he has sought to change.

As Congressman Golden explained on [October 22](#), **“I wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with an update on the proposal to help you understand where I am coming from when I say that it is not yet in a place where it would earn my vote. I do not present the concerns below idly, with no intention to try to change them. I am actively engaged with the White House and my colleagues in Congress to address as many of these issues as possible.”**

Here are some of the issues in previous versions of the Build Back Better Act Congressman Golden has helped address:

### **Targeting Child Care Subsidies to Working- and Middle-Class Families**

- **September 9, 2021:** The House Education and Labor Committee advanced a [version of the bill](#) that had no household income eligibility cap for child care subsidies.
- **October 22, 2021:** Golden objected to this, [arguing](#) that the bill should return to the Committee Chairman’s original proposal of capping household income eligibility at 200 percent of State Median Income (SMI).
- **October 28, 2021:** The White House issued a [framework](#), and the House Rules Committee released subsequent [versions](#) of the bill that cap household income eligibility at 250 percent of SMI.

### **Securing prescription drug price reform**

- **April 26, 2021:** Golden [pushed](#) for Rx drug cost provisions to be in the package.
- **April 28, 2021:** The White House released an [initial plan](#) that left those provisions out entirely.
- **October 24, 2021:** Golden [continued to push](#) for inclusion of Rx drug provisions in the bill.
- **October 28, 2021:** The House Rules Committee [drops prescription drug reform](#) from the second version of the bill.
- **November 2, 2021:** House Democrats reached an agreement to add a [compromise measure](#) to the bill that would allow for the negotiation of the most expensive drugs covered by Medicare starting in 2023. It was then included in the third [version of the bill](#), which came out the following day.

### **Preventing Regressive Tax Hikes on Traditional Tobacco Products**

- **September 15, 2021:** The House Ways and Means Committee advanced a [version of the bill](#) that would double the current rate of excise taxes on cigarettes, small cigars, and roll-your-own tobacco, and would raise the tax on chewing tobacco [21-fold](#).
- **October 22, 2021:** Golden [opposed](#) this proposal, calling it out as a regressive tax that would disproportionately hit low-income and working, middle-class Mainers.
- **November 3, 2021:** The House Rules Committee [dropped](#) the tobacco tax hikes from the latest version of the bill.

### **Avoiding a Medicare dental gimmick**

- **September 15, 2021:** The House Ways and Means Committee advanced a [version of the bill](#) that would add dental coverage to Medicare—but not until 2028.
- **October 7, 2021:** Golden [called out](#) the inclusion of a Medicare dental benefit that doesn't kick in until 2028 as a budget gimmick.
- **October 14, 2021:** Golden [urged](#) relevant committee chairs to either fix the Medicare dental provision so that it starts quickly and is fully funded, or set it aside from this bill.
- **October 22, 2021:** Golden [reiterated](#) his opposition to this proposal, calling for it to either be started sooner and fully funded or dropped from the bill so that the funding could be used to improve the implementation of other health policies.
- **October 28, 2021:** President Biden issued a [framework](#) with the Medicare dental provision dropped. The House Rules Committee dropped the provision from subsequent [versions of the bill](#).