

Susan Wild has supported trillions of dollars in reckless government spending that has given us historic inflation that is over eight percent and the highest in four decades. Now Pennsylvania families are struggling to afford basic household expenses.

## BACKUP:

### **Wild voted in favor of H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act; a partisan coronavirus relief package that cost nearly \$2 trillion:**

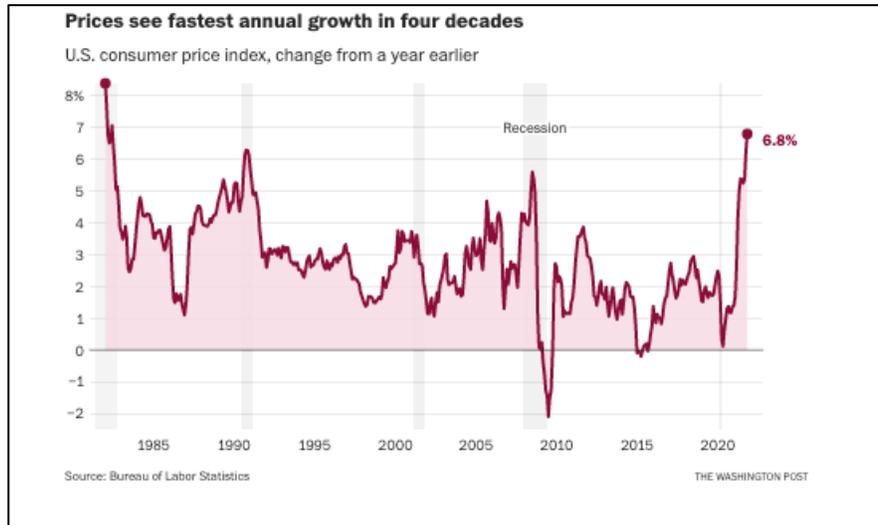
- **Wild voted for H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act.** (H.R. 1319, [Roll Call #72](#), Passed 220-211: R 0-210, D 220-1, Wild Voted Yea, 3/10/21)
- **The American Rescue Plan is a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package.** “President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package on Thursday. The colossal bill, known as the American Rescue Plan, allocates money for vaccines, schools, small businesses and anti-poverty programs such as an expanded child tax credit that will mean new monthly payments to many parents.” (Barbara Sprunt, “Here’s What’s In The American Rescue Plan,” [NPR](#), 3/11/21)
- **The American Rescue Plan passed through Congress on a partisan basis.** “The American Rescue plan made it through Congress with only Democratic support, making it stand out from the bipartisan COVID relief plans Congress passed over the last year.” (Savannah Behrmann, “Takeaways from the COVID-19 stimulus bill passing Congress: Weeks of partisan fighting comes to an end with a win for Biden,” [USA Today](#), 3/10/21)
  - **Democrat Jared Golden of Maine was the sole Democrat to oppose the American Rescue Plan.** “Democratic Rep. Jared Golden of Maine, who also voted against the original House version, was the sole member to break ranks. Golden argued in late February that many of the provisions in the nearly \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief package were not directly related to the pandemic or should be addressed in stand-alone bills.” (Jennifer Shutt, “House sends massive coronavirus relief bill to Biden,” [Roll Call](#), 3/10/21)

### **The American Rescue plan and infrastructure bill exacerbated inflation, causing it to reach its highest point in over four decades, and Pennsylvania families have struggled to afford basic household expenses:**

**Editor’s Note:** To see most recent inflation numbers, please see the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly [data](#).

- **In March 2022, inflation surged to 8.5%, reaching its highest levels in over 40 years.** “Inflation surges to 8.5%, highest in over 40 years... Inflation surged again in March, as consumer prices hit yet another fresh peak not seen in a generation. Why it matters: The relentless rise in prices is a challenge for investors, Federal Reserve policy makers and politicians, who are all trying to navigate an inflationary backdrop that hasn’t been seen since the early 1980s. Driving the news: The consumer price index rose 1.2% in March compared to February, above economists expectations for 1.1%. Prices were up 8.5% over the last year, higher than the 8.4% rise that economists expected, according to consensus

expectations reported by FactSet. That's the highest annual rate of inflation since December 1981." (Matt Phillips, "Inflation surges to 8.5%, highest in over 40 years," [Axios](#), 4/12/22)



(Rachel Siegel, "Prices Climbed 6.8% In November Compared With Last Year, Largest Rise In Nearly Four Decades, As Inflation Spreads Through Economy," [Washington Post](#), 12/10/21)

- **"The Labor Department said the increases for food and energy were the fastest 12-month gains in at least 13 years."** "The Labor Department said the increases for food and energy were the fastest 12-month gains in at least 13 years." (Megan Henney, "US Inflation Surges To 39-Year High As Consumer Prices Soar," [Fox News](#), 12/10/21)
- **HEADLINE: ". . . Biden's stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation."**

The New York Times

**A regional Fed analysis suggests Biden's stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation.**

(Jeanna Smialek, "A regional Fed analysis suggests Biden's stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation.," [The New York Times](#), 10/18/21)

- **According to a regional Federal Reserve Bank analysis, the American Rescue Plan boosted inflation.** "Inflation is likely getting a temporary boost from the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package that the Biden administration ushered in early this year, new Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco research released on Monday suggested." (Jeanna Smialek, "A regional Fed analysis suggests Biden's stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation.," [The New York Times](#), 10/18/21)
- **Researchers found that the American Rescue Plan might raise the vacancy-to-unemployment ratio close to its historical peak in 1968, fueling inflation.** "Based on the package's size and using historical evidence on how fiscal spending affects the labor market, the researchers found that the American Rescue Plan might raise the vacancy-to-unemployment ratio close to its historical peak in 1968, fueling some inflation – but that

the price impact would be small and short-lived.” (Jeanna Smialek, “A regional Fed analysis suggests Biden’s stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation.,” [The New York Times](#), 10/18/21)

- **The American Rescue Plan extended supplemental unemployment benefits.** “The American Rescue Plan extended unemployment benefits until September 6 with a weekly supplemental benefit of \$300 on top of the regular \$400 benefit.” (The White House, “[American Rescue Plan](#).” Accessed 11/1/21)
- **COVID-related unemployment benefits contribute to inflation.** “5) Low-wage workers are finally getting raises. Full-service restaurants saw no inflation in April, but fast-food establishments jacked up prices significantly. ... With their savings buttressed by stimulus checks – and, for the previously laid off, their sustenance assured by \$300-a-week federal unemployment benefits – many American workers have become newly empowered to turn down lousy job offers. This, combined with resurgent demand, has produced a shortage of labor in some sectors, forcing firms to raise wages to attract new hires.” (Eric Levitz, “THE ECONOMY JUNE 8, 2021 The Case for (and Against) Worrying About Inflation,” [NY Mag](#), 6/8/21)
- **In May 2022, FOX43 reported price increases for consumer goods were “causing major issues for people in low-income situations throughout Pennsylvania.”** “Increasing prices across a wide swath of consumer goods are causing major issues for people in low-income situations throughout Pennsylvania. A report from the Labor Department on Wednesday showed consumer prices in April were 8.3% higher than a year earlier. Consumer Price Index numbers showed small signs of improvement with a gradual lowering of price rates. However, for people who are already struggling after two years of pandemic-related setbacks, the situation isn't getting better. In fact, Stacie Blake, the CEO of YWCA Lancaster, says it’s getting worse. ‘We know that anytime that we see challenges on an economic front, – whether it's around employment, whether it's around inflation today, whether it's around any other price changes – those impacts affect the marginalized communities more,’ Blake said. The Pennsylvanians Blake works with every day are struggling to make ends meet, especially when it comes to food and gas. ‘The impact of inflation is uneven because it impacts the types of things you are required to purchase, which is going to mean your groceries, your gas in particular,’ said Blake. ‘...The people who are on the margins perhaps rely more on public transportation or are driving longer distances to work.’” (Madeline Cuddihy, “Inflation leads to issues for low-income Pennsylvanians,” [FOX43](#), 5/11/22)

### **Wild voted in favor of H.R. 3684, the \$1 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which experts say contributed to inflation:**

- **Wild voted for H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.** (H.R. 3684, [Roll Call #208](#), Passed 221-201, Wild Voted Yea, 7/1/21)
  - **Biden’s infrastructure bill cost more than \$1 trillion.** “President Joe Biden signed the more than \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill into law on Monday, checking off the first piece of his party’s sprawling economic agenda.” (Jacob Pramuk, “Biden signs \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill into law, unlocking funds for transportation, broadband, utilities,” [CNBC](#), 11/15/21)

- **According to the Heritage Foundation, Biden’s infrastructure bill contributed to the worst inflation surge in decades.** “The harmful effects of excessive government spending have become the most pressing issue for Americans due to the worst inflation surge in decades. Washington’s reckless choice to pump trillions of dollars into the economy is the reason we face more inflation than other top economies around the world. Yet, incredibly, Congress is still planning an onslaught of additional inflationary spending bills with seemingly no end in sight... Compared to projections from February 2021, when Biden had just taken office, the latest analysis shows a combined \$2.77 trillion in additional deficits over the 2021-2031 period. The largest factor for this increase was the wasteful and opportunistic \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 package that passed with exclusively Democratic support in March 2021. The shoddy \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill that Biden championed added even more red ink.” (David Ditch, “New Charts Reveal Harms of Biden’s Budget-Busting Binge,” [The Heritage Foundation](#), 6/8/22)