

Kirsten Engel supported a nearly \$2 trillion spending bill that spends hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars on projects like golf courses, ski slopes, and a luxury hotel, while causing the worst inflation in over four decades.

BACKUP:

Kirsten Engel supported the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package passed through Congress with only Democratic support:

- In November of 2021, Kirsten Engel claimed the American Rescue Plan has “helped reduce healthcare costs for Arizonans.”



(Kirsten Engel, [Twitter](#), 11/15/21)

- In July of 2021, Kirsten Engel claimed the “historic expansion” of the Child Tax Credit through the American Rescue Plan is “great news for Arizona families and will help reduce child poverty across our nation.”



(Kirsten Engel, [Twitter](#), 7/15/21)

- In June of 2021, Kirsten Engel claimed the Child Tax Credit, expanded through the American Rescue Plan, provides “historic relief to working families...”



(Kirsten Engel, [Twitter](#), 6/21/21)

- In May 2021, Engel said the universal pre-Kindergarten plan in the American Rescue Plan would be transformational.



Kirsten Engel ✓

May 23, 2021 · 🌐



I agree with Sec'y Hoffman: the Biden Administration's proposal for universal pre-K in the American Rescue Plan would be transformational for Arizona's kids, with benefits for all of us over time. Pre-K education pays off over a child's entire life - people who attend preschool are more productive in school, and work—with higher levels of education and earnings, less involvement in delinquency and crime, and fewer chronic health problems. This is an education and an economic game-changer the state legislature has not been able to get done and one we need to support at the federal level! https://tucson.com/.../article_48d146a6-ba65-11eb-816d...



TUCSON.COM

AZ Schools Supt. Kathy Hoffman: Why Biden's universal pre-K plan is a huge deal



(Kirsten Engel, [Facebook](#), 5/23/21)

- **Engel pushed back on the suggestion that legislation like the American Rescue Plan sparked inflation, saying “it was a lifeline to so many people in need.”** “Ms. Engel also pushed back on the suggestion that legislation like the American Rescue Plan sparked inflation, saying ‘it was a lifeline to so many people in need.’” (David Gordon, “Engel and Hernandez Exchange Views in CD Six Debate,” [Democrats of Greater Tucson](#), 5/25/22)
- **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)
 - **President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan into law in March 2021.** “President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act into law on Thursday, finalizing an early policy victory that will send much-needed aid to millions of Americans still struggling from the COVID-19 pandemic.” (Grace Segers, “Biden signs \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan into law,” [CBS News](#), 3/12/21)
 - **The American Rescue Plan passed through Congress with only Democratic support.** “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)

Nearly \$1 billion worth of funds from the American Rescue Plan were spent on projects that have “little to do with combating the pandemic,” such as ski slopes, golf courses, and a “high-end hotel”:

- **Federal coronavirus relief money was spent on projects that have “little to do with combating the pandemic.”** “Thanks to a sudden \$140 million cash infusion, officials in Broward County, Florida, recently broke ground on a high-end hotel that will have views of the Atlantic Ocean and an 11,000-square-foot spa. In New York, Dutchess County pledged \$12 million for renovations of a minor league baseball stadium to meet requirements the New York Yankees set for their farm teams. And in Massachusetts, lawmakers delivered \$5 million to pay off debts of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate in Boston, a nonprofit established to honor the late senator that has struggled financially. The three distinctly different outlays have one thing in common: Each is among the scores of projects that state and local governments across the United States are funding with federal coronavirus relief money despite having little to do with combating the pandemic, a review by The Associated Press has found.” (Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)
 - **“An Associated Press review finds state and local governments have spent nearly \$1 billion worth of federal coronavirus aid on projects that have little to do with combating the pandemic.”** (Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)
 - **The federal coronavirus relief funds came from the American Rescue Plan.** “The expenditures amount to a fraction of the \$350 billion made available through last year’s American Rescue Plan to help state and local governments weather the crisis.” (Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)
 - **Headline: “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes”**

Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes

By BRIAN SLODYSKO March 23, 2022

(Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)

- **More than \$6 million was allocated to replace irrigation systems at two golf courses in Colorado Springs.**

—\$6.6 million to replace irrigation systems at two golf courses in Colorado Springs.

(Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)

- **Palm Beach Gardens, Florida “is building a new golf course” with the money they received from the American Rescue Plan.** “Palm Beach Gardens, Florida — in Palm Beach County, home to 160 golf courses — is building a new golf course. These are among the thousands of ways cities and counties have started spending the first tranche of covid relief money from the American Rescue Plan Act passed by Congress in March. That economic

rescue package provides \$130 billion to cities and counties – with few restrictions on how the money can be spent. For many, it was their first economic relief directly received from the federal government.” (Phil Galewitz, “From Sewers to Golf Courses, Cities See Green With New Federal Covid Relief Dollars,” [KHN](#), 10/8/21)

- **An Iowa county acquired a privately owned ski resort.** “The Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors announced Tuesday it has acquired the Mt. Crescent Ski area, previously privately owned by Korby and Samantha Fleischer. The Fleischers will continue to manage the facility as a ski resort through the 2022 ski season. Pottawattamie County will take full control in the summer of 2022.” (“Pottawattamie County buys Mt. Crescent Ski area for \$3.5 million,” [KETV](#), 1/4/22)
 - **Two million dollars from the American Rescue Plan were used to acquire the ski resort.** “The Iowa West Foundation helped make the transfer possible with \$1.5 million and the other \$2 million is coming from the American Rescue Plan Action, COVID-19 federal relief funds.” (“Pottawattamie County buys Mt. Crescent Ski area for \$3.5 million,” [KETV](#), 1/4/22)
- **Officials in Florida used \$140 million in American Rescue Plan funding to help construct a “high-end hotel” that will have ocean views and an 11,000-square-foot spa.** “Thanks to a sudden \$140 million cash infusion, officials in Broward County, Florida, recently broke ground on a high-end hotel that will have views of the Atlantic Ocean and an 11,000-square-foot spa. In New York, Dutchess County pledged \$12 million for renovations of a minor league baseball stadium to meet requirements the New York Yankees set for their farm teams. And in Massachusetts, lawmakers delivered \$5 million to pay off debts of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate in Boston, a nonprofit established to honor the late senator that has struggled financially. The three distinctly different outlays have one thing in common: Each is among the scores of projects that state and local governments across the United States are funding with federal coronavirus relief money despite having little to do with combating the pandemic, a review by The Associated Press has found.” (Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)

The American Rescue Plan exacerbated inflation, causing it to reach its highest point in more than forty years:

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

- **As of June 2022, inflation reached an annual rate of 9.1%, the highest rate of inflation since 1981.** “Shoppers paid sharply higher prices for a variety of goods in June as inflation kept its hold on a slowing U.S. economy, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Wednesday. The consumer price index, a broad measure of everyday goods and services related to the cost of living, soared 9.1% from a year ago, above the 8.8% Dow Jones estimate. That marked the fastest pace for inflation going back to November 1981.” (Jeff Cox, “Inflation rose 9.1% in June, even more than expected, as consumer pressures intensify,” [CNBC](#), 7/13/22)
- **Headline: “US inflation at new 40-year high as price increases spread”**

US inflation at new 40-year high as price increases spread

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER June 10, 2022

(Christopher Rugaber, "US inflation at new 40-year high as price increases spread," [Associated Press](#), 6/10/22)

- **Headline:** ". . . Biden's stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation."

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)