

The Keystone XL Pipeline



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Over these past few weeks, I was assigned to write a synthesis essay on a reoccurring and controversial issue known as the Keystone XL Pipeline that has re-emerged and is continuing to cause disputes and problems. Without any knowledge of the background of the Keystone Pipeline or its general existence, I had to complete a lot of research to understand what it was and why it was so heavily debated. The Keystone XL Pipeline is an extension to the Keystone Pipeline system, proposed by TC Energy (formerly the TransCanadaCorp) in 2005, which would transport oil from Alberta, Canada, to refineries of the United States. The Keystone XL Pipeline has been controversial for many years as a result of concerns about its effect on global and environmental concepts, negatively impacting the world we live in today and that of the future.

President Joe Biden has revoked its order to be built in efforts to uphold his plan to address climate change. He believes that canceling the

pipeline will provide environmental protection, and eliminate its contribution to climate change. When focusing on the topic of environmental protection, there have been environmentalists to speak on the matter. According to a provided article, "Environmentalists oppose the project because it would create... an unconventional energy source requiring far more fuel, water and carbon emissions to extract than conventional oil and gas... In one method (producers use to get sands out of the ground), large amounts of water and natural gas are used to pump steam into the sands to extract the oil, which creates toxic environmental runoff".

This message surrounding the toxicity of the pipeline project also leads to the topic of climate change. In President Biden's executive order, he states that his policy of administration focuses on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that will impact climate change. He later suggests that the pipeline specifically goes against their climate imperatives as the pipeline solely contributes to climate change and has negative effects on the environment. I believe that this is important to know, especially since it impacts our environment, was dismissed by former President Obama, approved by Trump, and is now being canceled by President Biden, where people are debating against him, and several US states are suing his administration.

Texas Health Commissioner Says J&J Vaccines Should Resume



AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Coronavirus vaccine providers in Texas should resume using the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, Texas health commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt said Saturday.

"The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is an important tool in our fight against COVID-19, and the scientific review over the last 11 days has affirmed its safety and effectiveness," said Dr. John Hellerstedt.

Texas joined several other states Saturday in ordering or recommending a resumption after after U.S. health officials said Friday that they were lifting an 11-day pause on vaccinations using the J&J vaccine.

During the pause, scientific advisers decided the vaccine's benefits outweigh a rare risk of blood clot.

The state health department on Saturday reported more than 2,200 newly confirmed or probable virus cases and 49 additional deaths.

There have been more than 2.8 million confirmed or probable virus cases in Texas and 48,946 deaths since the pandemic began. The state health department reports more than 2.7 million people have recovered.

Democrats Push for Permanent \$300 Monthly Checks for Parents



Vice President Kamala Harris, Connecticut Rep. Rosa DeLauro and Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona visit a classroom at West Haven Child Development Center last month in West Haven, Connecticut. (Photo by Drew Angerer/Getty Images)

Biba Adams | The Griot

(THE GRIOT) - Democrats in the House of Representatives introduced a bill on Monday that would make \$300 monthly payments to parents permanent.

The payments were a child tax credit expansion in the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan that President Joe Biden signed in March.

The plan was introduced by Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, Rep. Suzan DelBene of Washington and Rep. Ritchie Torres of New York. The legislation is certain to be unpopular with Republicans and is unlikely to pass the Senate.

The \$300 monthly payments are in the form of a tax credit of \$3,000 for each child aged between six and 17 and \$3,600 for each child under the age of six

Under the law, the payments can be issued in a lump tax refund or monthly payments.

Single parents earning \$75,000 or less and couples earning \$150,000 or less are entitled to receive the full amount. Checks are supposed to start going out to families in July.

"We must use this moment to pass the American Family Act and permanently expand and improve the child tax credit by increasing the benefit to families and providing payments monthly," DeLauro said in a statement. "Children and families must be able to count on this benefit long after the end of this pandemic."

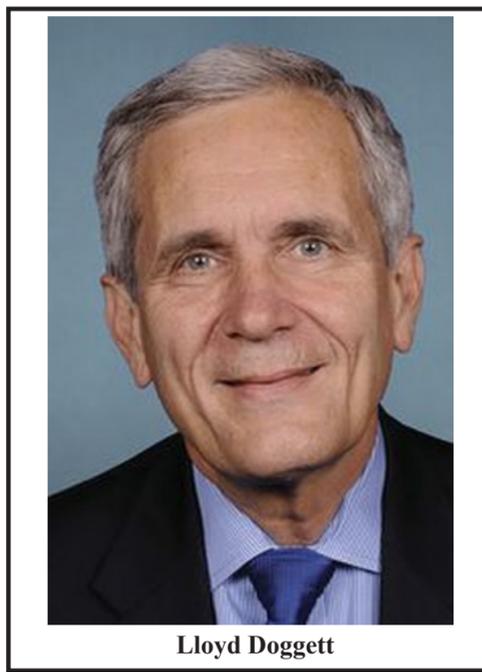
President Biden is reportedly set to unveil a new initiative called the American Families Plan, which will devote billions of dollars to national child care, pre-kindergarten, paid family leave, tuition-free community college and other family-oriented priorities. The directive will be funded by raised taxes on high-income Americans and investors. It's all part of Biden's Build Back Better program.

The White House also released a \$2.3 trillion jobs and manufacturing plan several weeks ago, one that will account for \$4 trillion in new spending to transform the economy after the devastation of the coronavirus pandemic.

Texas Democrats Urge Administration to Stand Up For Uninsured Texans, Guard Against Abbott Obstructing Progress

Washington, D.C. (Office of Congressman Lloyd Doggett) – This afternoon, U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) led all fellow Texas Democratic Members in urging the Biden Administration to utilize renegotiation of its Medicaid Section 1115 waiver as an opportunity to achieve significant reductions in the unacceptably high number of uninsured Texans. This follows the Biden Administration rightfully rescinding an illegal Trump Administration premature approval for an unprecedented ten years of the current waiver, which does not even expire until September 30, 2022.

"We must reduce the shameful uninsured rate in Texas," said Congressman Doggett. "Governor Abbott has been unjustifiably refusing two years of \$3.9 bil-



Lloyd Doggett

lion in federal Medicaid funds offered by the American Rescue Plan Act—funds that could provide coverage and improved health to over 2 million of our uninsured neighbors. Every Texan deserves access to a family physician, necessary medicine, and other essential cover-

age. The Biden Administration's decision to rescind the rushed-through Trump waiver poses no threat to our safety net in Texas, which has long been more hole than net. We now have a hopeful opportunity to correct past failures and end obstruction."

The Members wrote: "As you consider any further waiver application, we encourage you to ensure that Texas officials address our State's disgraceful distinction of having more uninsured citizens than any state in the country. While important that Texas hospitals receive necessary funding for uncompensated care, the 1115 waiver should not serve as a replacement for the State's failure to accept federal funding to expand Medicaid pursuant to the Affordable Care Act...Alternatively, if by not fully expanding Medicaid it remains indifferent to the needs of millions of uninsured Texans, the State could at least request a more limited approach successfully piloted in other states to allow a number of counties and other political subdivisions to expand coverage."

CTE Graduating Seniors Internship Signing Event Thursday, May 20, 2021 – 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

(AUSTIN ISD) - This is a virtual event for graduating seniors to sign up for training, internships and full-time employment opportunities offered by Austin area employers. (For example, City of Austin Fleet Services will hire two students through their high school graduate internship program; once students complete the internship program, they will be eligible for full time employment with benefits). Focus will be on high skill/high demand jobs in healthcare, information technology, manufacturing & skilled trades (mechanics, programmers, carpenters, electricians etc).

Prior to the event, prospective students are required to complete the screening application https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHJtJzQyRTjjar4bfi-awe4t_ID--etfhHhZqzef-EkTNBMA/viewform, which will be forwarded to potential employers.

For more information, please contact Carol Wright via email: carol.wright@austinisd.org or phone: 512-414-9727.