

Conclusion

Americans believe in an economy that works for everyone. But the American promise—the idea that if you work hard you can achieve the good life, exemplified by a secure paycheck that grows year after year, a nice home in a safe neighborhood with decent schools, retirement savings, health care, some leisure time to spend with friends and family, and the ability to send your kids to college and pass along to them a bigger share of the American Dream—is slipping out of the grasp of far too many.

State governments have a tremendous responsibility to help restore this promise and can be part of the solution to rebuild a strong and growing middle class. Progressive state leaders can help chart a course that underscores American ideals of fairness, equity, and opportunity, recognizing that our country’s greatest strength has always been our people. Doing so is essential for a vibrant democracy and a healthy economy—and for our conception of what the United States is all about.

This report presents a middle-class agenda that is big and bold, and rises to the scale of the challenges we face. Adoption of the proposals we’ve detailed here will help states fulfill their obligation to significantly improve the lives of residents by strengthening the middle class and the economy.

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