



Measuring Real Income Growth Act

Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney

The Measuring Real Income Growth Act would direct the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) at the Department of Commerce to report total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth by income decile and for the highest 1% of income earners.

BEA publishes annual and quarterly data on the growth of GDP in the U.S. GDP is a useful marker for analyzing economic growth, but aggregate data does not depict a complete picture of who benefits from economic growth and who is being left behind.

The straightforward legislation would require the BEA to publish distributional analyses of GDP to show how economic growth is distributed among Americans of all income levels.

In 2019, Congress passed a spending bill (P.L. 116-6) which included a provision that encouraged the BEA to report income growth by deciles. In 2020, BEA published the prototype statistics in accordance with the law, presenting data between 2007-2018. The Measuring Real Income Growth Act would codify the data reporting, providing a new perspective on economic inequality.

As families continue to suffer from both the public health and economic crises created by the coronavirus pandemic, we must focus on an equitable recovery for individuals and families at every income level. Having more precise and descriptive GDP data will allow us to better examine the progress of our economic recovery and better inform policy to ensure that increases in GDP are helping all families more equitably.