

Communicating for America

Our Policy Platform: Economic Justice for All Americans

Our Voice

Communicating for America is a membership organization with agricultural roots. We stand strong as vocal advocates for Americans who are too often are left behind in critically important social and economic policies. We believe in providing valuable policy recommendations that will benefit <u>all</u> Americans, while we staunchly support rural Americans.

OUR URGENT POLICY PRIORITIES

Emerging from our policy and data analysis, these are the top five policy priorities of Communicating for America:

1. Health Insurance and Health Care Accessibility.

We advocate for policies that will:

- A. Make health insurance affordable and available for all individuals, regardless of income, employment status, or pre-existing conditions.
- B. Assure fair and affordable health care delivery to all.
- C. Bring focus and attention to preventive health methods that will save lives and costs. We believe in promoting wellness along with treating illness.
- D. Control prescription drug prices through government policy.
- E. Preserve Medicaid benefits for those in need.
- F. Save rural hospitals from closure and strengthen rural health systems, including stemming the loss of rural physicians.
- G. Encourage remote "telehealth" solutions that make healthcare (especially mental health services) more accessible and economical for Americans.

2. Shrinking the Digital Divide.

Many Americans, especially those in rural areas, suffer from a Digital Divide. We advocate for improved high-speed internet access, including:

- A. Equal access to healthcare, especially telehealth tools;
- B. Equal access to the economic development benefits and business opportunities available only through high-speed internet capability;
- C. Equal access to internet-enabled education in schools;
- D. Equal opportunity for communication via digital tools; and
- E. Government support for expanding fiber-optic and broadband networks.

3. Relieving Medical Debt.

Lower-income Americans have been saddled with unsustainable, debilitating levels of medical debt. We advocate for public-private partnerships to relieve this debt and prevent predatory pricing and debt collection practices by healthcare institutions.

4. Creating Sensible Immigration Policy.

We advocate for fair immigration policies that will bolster the rural workforce and fill a desperate need for on-farm employment and rural economic development. We also support international exchange programs that bring students to the U.S. to work and study.

5. Bolstering Rural Economic Development.

We advocate for government assistance to preserve and nurture family-based agriculture – the very heartbeat of rural vitality.