The vast majority of tax incentives go to the richest Americans rather than those who need it most. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) heightened this disparity by leaving out working families. Instead of supporting the wealthy, we should be using the tax code to help working families build wealth. With your help, together we will turn our upside-down tax code right-side up.

Below is our right-side up tax policy agenda for 2020. By signing up for Prosperity Now’s Right-Side Up Tax Campaign, you will receive valuable information about steps you can take to turn the tax code right-side up, such as prompts to support or oppose legislation that affects your communities.

**Increase funding to keep up with growing demand for VITA.** VITA (the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program) supports hard-working Americans—including those with limited means, disabilities and limited English proficiency—by helping them to complete their taxes for free. In 2019, IRS-certified volunteers working at more than 3,700 VITA sites prepared over 1.5 million tax returns with a 98% accuracy rate—the highest in the industry. These sites generated over $1.8 billion in refunds to households earning less than $54,000 annually. Increasing annual federal funding from $25 million to $30 million would allow VITA to hire staff for program coordination, add new sites, improve volunteer recruitment and increase outreach to low-income households. More funding would also help VITA adjust to increasing demand due to the TCJA and constrained IRS resources.

**Encourage working families to use tax time to save for emergencies.** The Refund to Rainy Day Savings Act (S. 1018; H.R. 2112 in the 116th Congress) would allow tax filers to defer 20% of their tax refund for six months before being deposited into the filer’s direct deposit account with interest. Sponsored by Sens. Cory Booker (D-NJ), Tom Cotton (R-AR), Doug Jones (D-AL) and Todd Young (R-IN) as well as Reps. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ-12) and French Hill (R-AR-2), the bill includes a pilot program to match deferred tax refunds for lower-income filers. Finally, the bill expands the flexibility of the Assets for Independence (AFI) grant program which encourages savings and self-sufficiency by offering matching funds to help low-income workers build assets.

**Provide every child at birth with the economic resources needed to begin building economic security and generational wealth.** The American Opportunity Accounts Act (S. 2231; H.R. 3922 in the 116th Congress), introduced by Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Rep. Aryanna Pressley (D-MA-7), would ensure that the four million children born each year would receive an American Opportunity Account seeded with an initial $1,000 deposit. Until they turn 18, children from low- and moderate-income families will have their accounts, administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, boosted through direct deposits of additional, automatic yearly investments of up to $2,000. At age 18, the funds could be used by the child to invest in wealth-building opportunities such as higher education or homeownership.

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**Interested in joining our other advocacy campaigns?**

- **AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP**
- **CONSUMER PROTECTIONS**
- **FINANCIAL SECURITY**

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**Sign Up for Prosperity Now’s Right-Side Up Tax Campaign!**

[www.prosperitynow.org/take-action](http://www.prosperitynow.org/take-action)

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### Join the Campaign to Turn the Tax Code Right-Side Up!

**NAME**

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Sign Up for the Right-Side Up Tax Campaign or other advocacy campaigns at [www.prosperitynow.org/take-action](http://www.prosperitynow.org/take-action)