

# MID-YEAR DONOR IMPACT REPORT

## 2020 Priorities

Curbing Big Government During Crisis

Inspiring Young People with Liberty

Expanding Housing Affordability

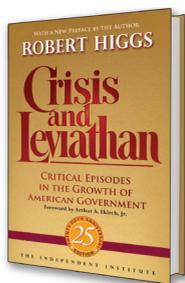
Securing Quality Education

Preserving Opportunity as Unemployment Rises

The Independent Institute is addressing the biggest issues of 2020—and making a big impact—by boldly promoting principled solutions rooted in limited government, free enterprise, the rule of law, and a respect for individual liberty and human dignity.

### Curbing Big Government During Crisis

Ever since the publication of our seminal book *Crisis and Leviathan*, the Independent Institute has been the foremost voice in pointing out and resisting government growth especially during times of crisis.



During the COVID-19 crisis, our research has again been at the forefront of resisting government encroachments on economic and civil liberties and prosperity. In the last several months, we have produced 23 videos, 12 audio interviews, and 55 op-eds and articles (with a total media reach of over 880 million).

“*Crisis and Leviathan* is important and powerful.”  
—James M. Buchanan, Nobel Laureate in Economics

*Crisis and Leviathan* itself has been cited more than 450 times this year in media outlets, including: *The Washington Post*, *National Review*, *The Hill*, *Forbes*, and many more.

30 BOOK AWARDS TO DATE IN 2020 

### Inspiring Young People with Liberty

As recent riots have demonstrated, many young people have lost sight of the importance of liberty, limited government, free markets, and other key principles. Yet, we are reaching and changing the minds of many, many more young people through:

Achieving over 9 million views from young people this year from young people—our total views for *Love Gov* now stand at over 30 million across two seasons.



 Our bold new *Catalyst* website connects young people with the liberty-minded solutions to the harmful impacts of Big Government on them.

Our highly-curated *Best Books on the Folly of Socialism* webpage, meant for young leaders, has achieved over 10,100 social media shares and been translated into several languages.



# Preserving Opportunity as Unemployment Rises

COVID-19 and the economic fallout from the lockdowns has thrown millions out of work and in dire need of flexible employment opportunities. Unfortunately, the national policy trend of regulating and reducing the use of independent contractors is blocking these people from the “gig economy” jobs they and we all need. In California, this centers on Assembly Bill 5 (AB-5) which was enacted at the start of 2020 and bans independent contractors, and Vice President Biden has recently indicated his intention if elected as President to adopt such a disastrous measure nationally. The Independent Institute is boldly resisting these regulations and preserving necessary employment through:

## Our Open Letter to Suspend AB-5

Signed by 153 economists and political scientists featured in over 40 different outlets, including the *Los Angeles Daily News*, *Washington Free Beacon*, *KTVU* and many other Fox affiliate television channels.



## Amicus Briefing Before the U.S. Court of Appeals Before the Ninth Circuit

*American Society of Journalists and Authors, Inc. and National Press Photographers Association v. Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California.*



## Expanding Housing Affordability

Through our Center on Entrepreneurial Innovation (COEI) and Golden Fleece® Awards, we are advancing bold solutions to solve the unaffordable housing crisis affecting urban centers across the country.

### Restoring the California Dream: Removing Obstacles to Fast and Affordable Housing

Independent Policy Briefing  
(Released 1/8/20)

Cited in the *Sacramento Bee*, *San Francisco Business Times*, *Orange County Register*, POTUS and Patriot Channels (SiriusXM) and other media.

This fall, COEI will also release a comprehensive Independent Policy Report sharing solutions to reduce homelessness in urban centers.



## Securing Quality Education

Students learn effectively when they follow a curriculum oriented toward well-framed high-caliber learning standards. Through our Center on Educational Excellence (COEE), we are identifying how states can improve student achievement by improving academic standards and school choice.

### Better Than Common Core: Florida's New Education Standards Raise the Bar

Independent Policy Briefing  
(Released 7/2/20)

“Briefing Makes the Case for Other States to Adopt Florida’s Standards as an Alternative to Common Core,” cited favorably in the *Tampa Bay Times*.

As a result, our Director of COEE, Dr. Williamson Evers, testified before the Idaho Legislature on ways to improve their K-12 academic standards.



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