



PRESIDENT'S DAY

DISTRICT WORK PERIOD



House Republican Conference

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Dear Colleague,

Families across the country are hurting, and demanding action from Congress. In January, Republicans arrived in the nation's capitol ready to work to get our economy on the road to recovery.

We were encouraged by the President's desire to craft a bipartisan economic recovery plan. Unfortunately, the winds of change that swept the nation on Election Day were shut out from the halls of Congress. The Democrat leadership passed a purely partisan spending bill that was flawed in many ways, including:

- Unprecedented amounts of wasteful spending that included: \$300 million for "green golf carts," \$50 million for the National Endowment of the Arts, and \$1 billion for the 2010 decennial census;
- No significant tax relief for working families and small businesses; and
- No real input from Republican lawmakers, breaking with the President's pledge for bipartisan cooperation.

While Democrats were pushing through Congress this massive spending bill, Republicans put forward a proposal that would get our economy back on track.

Enclosed you will find talking points and background materials to assist you in communicating our solutions to the challenges facing the country. Feel free to use this information to frame the ongoing debate between the Democrat vision for big government, and the Republican vision for limited government and personal freedom.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me or the House Republican Conference for further assistance. I hope you enjoy a productive recess. Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the House Republican Conference and the nation.

Sincerely,



Mike Pence
Chairman, House Republican Conference
February 13, 2009

amid a recession and an overzealous democrat majority

*FIGHTING FOR
SMALL BUSINESS-BASED
JOB GROWTH*



the ECONOMY

STATUS OF EVENTS

Before leaving for the President's Day District Work Period, the Congress passed the conference agreement on H.R. 1, the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act." The final bill totaled roughly \$800 billion. Congress is expected to move quickly to the omnibus spending bill following the President's Day recess. Reports suggest this package may total more than \$400 billion.

TALKING POINTS

Our nation is in a recession and American families are hurting. The Congress and the President are right to take decisive action to help bring relief to working families. Unfortunately, the Democrat bill misses the mark, and simply stimulates more government and more debt.

House Republicans opposed the Democrat plan for one reason – it won't work. There was bipartisan opposition to the House bill because it was simply a wish-list of tired liberal spending priorities. Spending \$2 billion on our national parks won't help the worker who has lost his job.

House Republicans stand on the side of the American people. The American people need immediate tax relief. Republicans presented a plan that would do just that by creating twice the jobs at half the cost. It's time to put politics aside, and put Americans first and back to work.

PRESS THEMES

Paul Kanjorski (D-PA) believes the Democrats' stimulus plan throws money at the problem: "We face the most challenging economic crisis since the Great Depression, yet this bill merely throws money at the problem by expanding existing programs." (Politico, "The Dems Who Bucked Obama," February 2, 2009.)

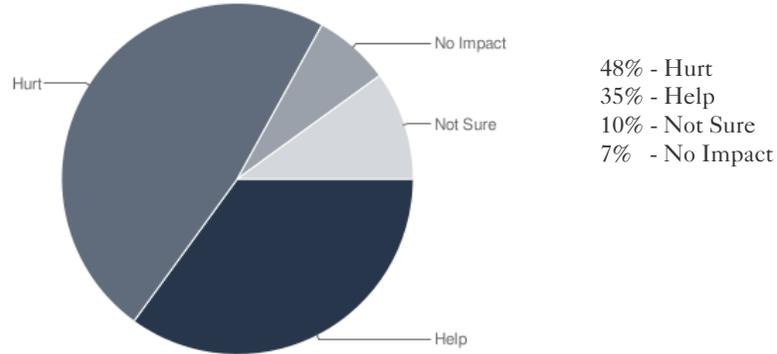
Allen Boyd (D-FL) fears this level of deficit spending will make the economy worse: "I have serious concerns that this level of deficit spending without a plan toward fiscal responsibility will only make our economic problems worse," said Congressman Boyd. "This stimulus package does not address the issues that we know are at least partly responsible for the economic downturn..." (Press Release, January 28, 2009.)

William Galston, former policy advisor to President Clinton, has written that the bill may prove too weak to halt or reverse this economic crisis: "Because of the bill's divided focus, its stimulative effect may prove too weak to halt or reverse more than a fraction of the job losses predicted for the next two years." (New Republic, "Making the Most of Crisis?" January, 29, 2009.)

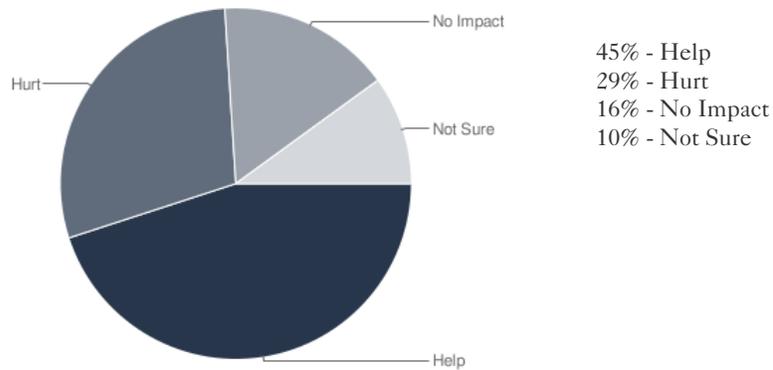
Rasmussen Reports

February 9, 2009

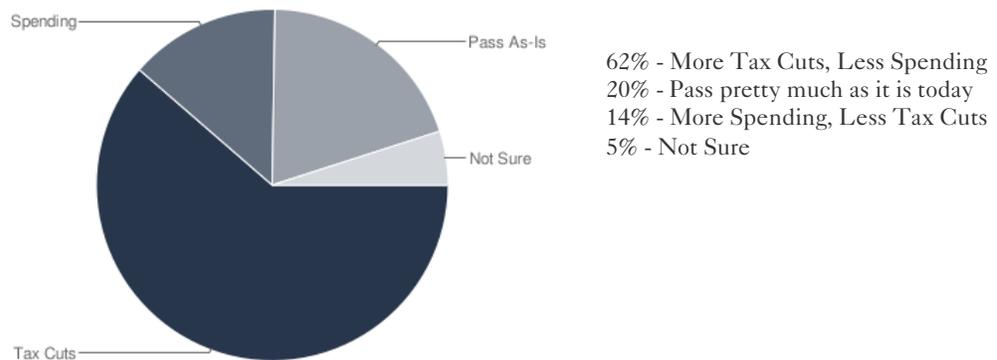
1) Generally speaking, do increases in government spending help the economy, hurt the economy, or have no impact on the economy?



2) Generally speaking, do decreases in government spending help the economy, hurt the economy, or have no impact on the economy?



3) As Congress debates the economic stimulus plan initially proposed by President Obama, would you like to see the plan include more tax cuts and less government spending, more government spending and less tax cuts, or would you rather see the plan pass pretty much as it is today?



NOTE: Margin of Sampling Error, +/- 3 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence

Stimulus Spending – When Will We See Results?

January 21, 2009

Courtesy of Committee on Appropriations Republicans

The following table shows when the funding contained in the Appropriations stimulus legislation will actually be spent. American workers and families are suffering now, but only seven percent of the funding will be spent this year. The bulk of the funding in this bill won't be spent for YEARS – including 18 percent which won't be spent until five, ten, or even more years after this bill is enacted.

STIMULUS PACKAGE SPENDOUT				
(in thousands)				
FISCAL YEAR	Budget Authority by Year	Outlays by Year	Cumulative Outlays	Total % Spent
FY 09	\$273,986	\$26,156	\$26,156	7%
FY 10	\$66,529	\$110,167.0	\$136,323	38%
FY 11	\$4,147	\$103,048	\$239,371	67%
FY12	\$3,575	\$52,948	\$292,319	82%
FY 13-19	\$9,852	\$63,213	\$355,532	99%
After FY19	-	\$2,557	\$358,089	100%
Total	\$358,089	\$358,089		

The President's Senior Economic Advisors' Research Shows the Republican Substitute Could Create 6.2 million Jobs over the Next Two Years

January 28, 2009

Courtesy of Committee on Ways and Means Republicans

When the methods and economic models developed by the President's top advisors are applied to a nonpartisan estimate of the tax relief provided by the substitute to H.R. 1, it shows the Republican substitute could create 6.2 million jobs over the next two years.

Let's be clear about where these estimates come from: the President's senior economic advisors.

- The President's nominee to Chair the Council of Economic Advisors, Dr. Christina Romer's peer-reviewed analysis found that tax cuts stimulate GDP growth at a rate between 2.2 and 3 to 1. That means every dollar of tax cuts generates between \$2.20 to \$3.00 of economic activity.
- Applying Dr. Romer's most conservative estimate of a 2.2 to 1 multiplier to the nonpartisan Joint Tax Committee's analysis of the amount of tax cuts in our substitute, this analysis shows a 6.1 percent increase in GDP.
- Using the estimate of how many jobs are created based on increases in GDP developed by Jared Bernstein, Vice-President Biden's senior economic advisor and Dr. Romer, the answer is the Republican substitute yields 6.2 million jobs over two years. Compared to the Democrat plan which estimates 3-4 million jobs at a cost of more than \$800 billion, the Republican plan would create twice the jobs for half the price. Conversely, the Democrat plan creates half the jobs at twice the price.
- The analysis and estimates used are taken directly from the published analysis of the President's senior economic advisors. Republicans didn't develop these ourselves. We used the results of peer-reviewed research developed by the President's senior economic advisors.
- Everyone, including the nonpartisan CBO, has acknowledged that tax cuts will impact the economy more quickly than big government spending. Analysis by President Obama's senior economic advisors also shows that tax cuts provide a bigger bang for the buck.

State by State Breakout of Job Creation Under the Republican Substitute to H.R. 1

February 5, 2009

Courtesy of Committee on Ways and Means Republicans

The table below lists the number of jobs that could be created in each state under the House Republican substitute to H.R. 1. These estimates are derived from the results of applying Dr. Christina Romer's economic analysis to the House Republican substitute that show that the substitute could create 6.2 million jobs over the next two years. Unlike the House-passed bill, H.R. 1, the substitute contains broadly applicable tax cuts for families and business and does not pick and choose favorites among the states or particular industry sectors through various spending programs.

New Jobs Per State	GOP Plan	Democrat Plan	GOP Jobs Advantage	New Jobs Per State	GOP Plan	Democrat Plan	GOP Jobs Advantage
Alabama	91,000	55,000	36,000	Massachusetts	150,000	83,000	67,000
Alaska	15,000	9,000	6,000	Michigan	187,000	116,000	71,000
Arizona	117,000	74,000	43,000	Minnesota	125,000	70,000	55,000
Arkansas	55,000	33,000	22,000	Mississippi	52,000	32,000	20,000
California	688,000	421,000	267,000	Missouri	128,000	73,000	55,000
Colorado	108,000	63,000	45,000	Montana	20,000	12,000	8,000
Connecticut	77,000	44,000	33,000	Nebraska	45,000	24,000	21,000
Delaware	20,000	11,000	9,000	Nevada	58,000	36,000	22,000
DC	32,000	13,000	19,000	New Hampshire	30,000	17,000	13,000
Florida	359,000	218,000	141,000	New Jersey	185,000	106,000	79,000
Georgia	186,000	113,000	73,000	New Mexico	39,000	23,000	16,000
Hawaii	28,000	17,000	11,000	New York	399,000	228,000	171,000
Idaho	29,000	18,000	11,000	North Carolina	188,000	111,000	77,000
Illinois	271,000	158,000	113,000	North Dakota	17,000	9,000	8,000
Indiana	133,000	79,000	54,000	Ohio	246,000	142,000	104,000
Iowa	70,000	39,000	31,000	Oklahoma	73,000	42,000	31,000
Kansas	64,000	35,000	29,000	Oregon	78,000	46,000	32,000
Kentucky	85,000	51,000	34,000	Pennsylvania	264,000	152,000	112,000
Louisiana	90,000	53,000	37,000	Rhode Island	22,000	13,000	9,000
Maine	28,000	16,000	12,000	South Carolina	88,000	54,000	34,000
Maryland	120,000	70,000	50,000				

New Jobs Per State	GOP Plan	Democrat Plan	GOP Jobs Advantage	New Jobs Per State	GOP Plan	Democrat Plan	GOP Jobs Advantage
South Dakota	19,000	10,000	9,000	Virginia	173,000	99,000	74,000
Tennessee	126,000	75,000	51,000	Washington	135,000	80,000	55,000
Texas	490,000	286,000	204,000	West Virginia	35,000	21,000	14,000
Utah	57,000	33,000	24,000	Wisconsin	130,000	74,000	56,000
Vermont	14,000	8,000	6,000	Wyoming	14,000	8,000	6,000

Jobs created by Democrat plan from

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/state_by_state_employment_impact/

Republican estimates derived from Christina Romer and David Romer, "The Macroeconomic Effects of Tax Changes: Estimates Based on a New Measure of Fiscal Shocks" National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 13264, July 2007, <http://elsa.berkeley.edu/~cromer/RomerDraft307.pdf> and Bureau of Labor Statistics, State and Area Employment, Hours, and Earnings, series catalog SMS0100000000000001.

ensuring that quality patient care is provided

*BY FOCUSING ON
THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST*



HEALTHCARE

STATUS OF EVENTS

On February 4, 2009, the House of Representatives passed the Senate amendments to H.R. 2, the “Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009.” The President signed the bill into law on the same day.

TALKING POINTS

House Republicans support serving the nation’s poor children first. The Democrat bill extends healthcare to children in families making up to \$65,000 a year, and uses tax increases on low-income individuals to pay the bill. Due to weak restrictions on the states, the bill may even expand the program to families making more than \$65,000 a year.

House Republicans do not support forcing families off of private health care in order to expand a government program. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office the Democrat bill will result in 2.4 million individuals dropping their private health insurance and enrolling in government run healthcare. The Democrat bill was designed to increase the government’s role in healthcare.

House Republicans are committed to renewing the promise of SCHIP for families who need it most. It was a Republican Congress, working with then-President Clinton, which first passed SCHIP back in 1997. The goal was simple – ensure that children living near poverty receive healthcare services. Republicans remain committed to this goal a decade later and support extending the current program.

PRESS THEMES

Wall Street Journal

Democrats working hard to pass national healthcare through “stealth care.” “This was the real accomplishment of this week’s House vote for the \$819 billion ‘stimulus,’ and is the overriding theme of Congress’s first month. With the nation occupied with the financial crisis, and with that crisis providing cover, Democrats have been passing provision after provision to nationalize health care.” (Kimberley A. Strassel, “Democratic Stealth Care,” January 30, 2009.)

Heritage Foundation

Democrat SCHIP bill expands low-income program into the middle-class. “Its [the U.S. Senate’s] decisions on that legislation will have a major impact on the private health insurance coverage of millions of American children...

In other words, the House version of the bill would expand the program beyond low-income working families far into the middle class.” (Paul Winfree and Greg D’Angelo, “The New SCHIP Bill: The Senate Must Protect Private Coverage,” January 26, 2009.)

CNS News.com

Senate Republicans believe SCHIP expansion amounts to “socialized medicine.” “‘One could certainly conclude that,’ Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), said in response to questions from CNSNews.com. ‘This is yet one more way to get people off of private coverage and onto government coverage so that little by little you eventually end up with a majority of people on government coverage.’” (Matt Cover, “SCHIP Expansion Amounts to ‘Socialized Medicine’ Senate Republicans Say,” January 28, 2009.)

WSJ: DEMOCRATIC STEALTH CARE

Democratic Stealth Care

JANUARY 30, 2009

By Kimberley A. Strassel

Tom Daschle is still waiting to be confirmed as secretary of health and human services, not that he's in any rush. Democrats are already enacting his and Barack Obama's agenda of government-run health care -- entirely on the QT.

This was the real accomplishment of this week's House vote for the \$819 billion "stimulus," and is the overriding theme of Congress's first month. With the nation occupied with the financial crisis, and with that crisis providing cover, Democrats have been passing provision after provision to nationalize health care.

If Democrats learned anything from the HillaryCare defeat, it was the danger of admitting to their wish to federalize the health market. Since returning to power, they've pursued a new strategy: to stealthily and incrementally expand government control. "What no one is paying attention to in the [stimulus]," says Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, "is that Democrats are making a big grab at the health-care sector."

It began one week after the swearing-in, when Nancy Pelosi whipped through a big expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. The SCHIP bill was Democrats' first stab at stealth expansion, unveiled in 2007, though vetoed by George W. Bush.

Initially designed for children of working-poor families, this new Super-SCHIP will be double in size, and even kids whose parents make \$65,000 a year will be eligible. The program will also now cover pregnant women and automatically enroll their new arrivals. The Congressional Budget Office estimates 2.4 million individuals will drop their private coverage for the public program.

Still, it's the "stimulus" that has proven the real gift horse -- a behemoth that has allowed Democrats to speed up the takeover of health care under cover of an economic crisis. They initially claimed, for instance, the "stimulus" would provide Medicaid money to states struggling to pay existing bills. What in fact it does is dramatically expand the number of Americans who qualify for Medicaid.

Under "stimulus," Medicaid is now on offer not to just poor Americans, but Americans who have lost their jobs. And not just Americans who have lost their jobs, but their spouses and their children. And not Americans who recently lost their jobs, but those who lost jobs, say, early last year. And not just Americans who already lost

their jobs, but those who will lose their jobs up to 2011. The federal government is graciously footing the whole bill. The legislation also forbids states to apply income tests in most cases.

House Democrat Henry Waxman was so thrilled by this blowout, it was left to Republicans to remind him that the very banking millionaires he dragged to the Hill last year for a grilling would now qualify for government aid. His response? A GOP proposal to limit subsidies to Americans with incomes under \$1 million was accepted during markup, but had disappeared by final passage. In this new health-care nirvana, even the rich are welcome. CBO estimates? An additional 1.2 million on the federal Medicaid dime in 2009.

The "stimulus" also hijacks Cobra, a program that lets the unemployed retain access to their former company health benefits -- usually for about 18 months. The new stimulus permits any former employee over the age of 55 to keep using Cobra right up until they qualify for Medicare at age 65. And here's the kicker: Whereas employees were previously responsible for paying their health premiums while on Cobra, now the feds will pay 65%. CBO estimates? Seven million Americans will have the feds mostly pay their insurance bills in 2009.

The bill even takes a whack at the private market. Under the guise of money for "health technology," the legislation makes the government the national coordinator for electronic health records, able to certify what platforms are acceptable. This is an attempt to squelch a growing private market that is competing to improve transparency and let consumers compare providers and costs. In liberal-world, only government should be publishing (and setting) health-care prices.

Add it up, and Democrats may move 10 million more Americans under the federal health umbrella -- in just four weeks! Good luck ever cutting off that money. Meanwhile, the Democratic majority is gearing up for a Medicare fight, where it may broach plans to lower the eligibility age to 55. Whatever costs accrue, they'll pay for by slashing the private Medicare Advantage option.

Mr. Obama will, of course, offer his health-care reform at some point. But he's clearly happy to get what he can, when he can. Despite talk of entitlement reform, he's voiced no disapproval of this vast new health-care grab. And don't forget he chose Mr. Daschle, who appreciates stealth himself. In his 2008 book outlining his health-care reform, he offers his party two pieces of political advice: Move fast, before there can be a public debate, and write as vague a bill as possible.

Guiding all of this is the left's hope that by the time America wakes up to what's happening, it'll be too late. Democrats might be on to something.

protecting our citizens

*BY DELIVERING
JUSTICE*



GUANTANAMO

STATUS OF EVENTS

Since the President issued his decision to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility on January 22, 2009, the Administration is in the process of establishing an interagency task force to review our national detention policies and also to provide a review of all current terrorists being held in American custody. No Congressional action is expected at this time.

TALKING POINTS

The President's decision raises important questions that need to be answered. We need to know: Are terrorists placed on American soil afforded Constitutional protections? How can we be sure the terrorists, once released, are not later found on the battlefield fighting American soldiers? The Associated Press recently reported that 61 *former* Guantanamo detainees "rejoined" the fight against American troops.

Changing our detention policies without having new policies in place is a reckless act with serious consequences at home and on the battlefield. Any gap or uncertainty in our terrorist detention policy will directly impact the safety of the men and women fighting for our freedoms. We must ensure that terrorists found on the battlefield are not afforded Constitutional rights, or slip back onto the battlefield through some legal loophole.

House Republicans are ready to work with the President to protect Americans and our troops. Each Member and their constituents have a direct stake in this issue, as the terrorists picked up on the field of battle may be dropped in a prison in their town. The burden is on the Administration to present a better alternative to Guantanamo that will not endanger the lives of Americans, and our soldiers in combat.

PRESS THEMES

Congressman John Salazar (D-CO) believes Guantanamo should remain open to protect American lives. "The governor is wrong to encourage the president to . . . close the Guantanamo facility by welcoming the detainees to be incarcerated in Colorado. Guantanamo needs to stay open, not only to protect Americans here at home, but to protect our soldiers and Marines serving in harm's way." (Rocky Mountain News, "Possible Gitmo transfer to Colo. spurs protest," February 2, 2009.)

Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA) says Congress should be left out because it will only want to protect its own backyard. "Rep. Jim Moran (D-Va.), however, disagreed, saying he hoped that Congress wouldn't be involved at all because nobody would want the terrorists housed in their own backyard. 'I would rather he handle it by himself frankly, because Congress is just going to want to protect its own backyard whether it be Quantico or Fort Leavenworth or whatever, so I'd rather he make an executive decision,' Moran said..." (CNS News, "Democrats Split on Whether Congress Should be Involved in Closing Gitmo," January 23, 2009.)

The Los Angeles Times writes that President Obama kicked down the road many tough decisions. "But on a day meant to demonstrate a clean break from the policies of his predecessor, Obama put off many of the most difficult decisions about what the U.S. will do with detainees, and left room to revisit whether the CIA still should have permission to use coercive methods when questioning captives." (Los Angeles Times, "Obama overturns Bush tactics in war on terrorism," January 23, 2009.)

Administration Proposal for America's Terrorist Detention Program Raises Serious Questions

Courtesy of Committee on Armed Services Republicans

House Republicans want to work with the President to protect our troops on the battlefield and keep America safe. We appreciate the Administration for opening a dialogue with House Republicans on the important issue of America's terrorist detention policy. We look forward to working with the President and his Administration as we move forward on this topic.

Before the terrorist detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, can be closed, there are important questions that must be answered. The detention facility remains open because of the complications associated with transferring and/or trying the terrorists that are housed there—not because of lack of will to close it. Prior to closing the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, the following questions—and others—must be considered:

- How can we ensure that terrorists released or transferred to another country do not reappear on the battlefield or in a position to attack Americans or our allies?
- If you close Guantanamo Bay, where do you house the terrorists that are deemed too dangerous to release or transfer to another country?
- If the judicial procedures that were established under the Military Commissions Act are overturned, does it render the evidence null and void? If so, do we have sufficient evidence to continue to hold the most dangerous terrorists, such as 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed?
- If terrorist detainees are brought into the United States, aren't they automatically afforded more constitutional rights than U.S. military personnel under the Uniform Code of Military Justice? And doesn't that increase the threat that a judge will release the detainee into the U.S. population because we lack evidence meeting our high federal standards?
- If U.S. troops capture a high-value terrorist prior to the establishment of new detention procedures, where will this individual be housed? Will he/she be transferred to Guantanamo Bay? The United States?

By suspending trials for 120 days and ordering the closure of Guantanamo within a year, the Administration has virtually guaranteed that dangerous people—who are intent on attacking America and its allies—will eventually be moved to a detention facility within the United States and become entitled to the full suite of Constitutional protections provided U.S. citizens.

Radically curtailing America's terrorist detention program without having new policies and procedures in place could have an extreme impact on the battlefield. The Administration intends to freeze certain aspects of America's terrorist detention programs without having established new policies or procedures to guide our troops and intelligence officials... The Administration and Congress must clearly understand the ramifications and potential impact any gap could have on America's efforts on the battlefield.

preserving the

*FOUNDATION ON WHICH
OUR COUNTRY WAS BUILT*

VALUES



STATUS OF EVENTS

No action has occurred since the President signed his Executive Order on January 23, 2009, which overturns the long-standing Mexico City Policy. Members of Congress will likely discuss this policy, and other similar pro-life policies, during the upcoming budget and appropriations process.

TALKING POINTS

New policy forces pro-life Americans to fund international organizations that provide abortion – a practice that they believe is morally unconscionable. Each year the United States delivers more than \$400 million in family planning aid to more than 50 countries. The Mexico City Policy ensured that the assistance would not be given to organizations that provided or promoted abortions. Since the President has repealed this policy, pro-life taxpayers are now on the hook for funding international abortion providers.

Mexico City Policy was a reasonable approach to how the U.S. provides international aid. International health organizations were able to not support abortion, and in return, receive U.S. aid, or they could encourage and provide abortion, and in return, receive funding from sources other than the United States. Now, international health organizations can promote and provide abortion at will.

The President should reinstate this long-standing and reasonable policy. This policy has been the law of the land for the last eight years. The international community has benefited from this policy, and American taxpayers have been well-served by the policy. To protect the conscience rights of pro-life Americans, and to ensure the U.S. continues to be a force of good in the world, the President should reverse his decision.

PRESS THEMES

Washington Times: Obama breaks promise to unite country by repealing Mexico City Policy. “No sooner had President Obama taken the oath of office than he betrayed two of his campaign promises. In pledging to unite us, not divide us, he promised to find common ground on cultural issues... America is back in business as Doctor Death to millions of the world's babies.” (Editorial, “Obama’s abortion war,” January 28, 2009.)

Tampa Bay Tribune: Obama tries to lift ban on federally funded overseas abortion “on the sly.” “Within a week of being sworn in, he lifted the Bush administration’s ban on federal funding for international family planning programs that provide abortion information or counseling to clients. He tried to do it on the sly, perhaps out of sensitivity to the thousands who marched for life in Washington last Thursday...” (Editorial, “Obama’s Abortion Politics,” January 29, 2009.)

National Review Online: Obama repeals policy that prohibited American dollars to pro-abortion groups overseas. “Sometimes change can make you choke. That’s been the experience of many supporters of the Mexico City Policy, recently repealed by President Obama. The Reagan-era mandate, derisively referred to by its critics as the ‘Global Gag Rule,’ prevented America from officially exporting its liberal abortion policies overseas...” (Kathryn Jean Lopez, “Gagging on Misinformation,” February 2, 2009.)

Obama Administration to Allow U.S. Taxpayer Dollars To Fund Abortion Providers Overseas

STATUS

On Friday, January 23, 2009, President Obama reversed a long-standing policy, known colloquially as the Mexico City Policy, which has prohibited U.S. tax dollars from funding abortion providers overseas. This came the same week as the 36th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion in the United States.

The Mexico City Policy was instituted by President Reagan in 1984, rescinded by President Clinton in 1993, and reinstated by President Bush in 2001.

The Mexico City Policy draws a clear line between family planning and promoting abortion. In allowing U.S. tax dollars to fund abortion providers by executive fiat, President Obama is forcing many pro-life Americans to fund organizations who promote a procedure they consider morally unconscionable.

Opponents of the policy believe it limits U.S. foreign aid financing of foreign non-governmental organizations (NGO). However, numerous NGO's have adapted their family planning programs over the years not to include the promotion of abortion in order to continue receiving U.S. foreign aid assistance.

Q&A FOR CONCERNED MEMBERS

Does the Mexico City Policy undermine family planning activities and our support for such policies abroad? No. As many Members would agree, abortion should not be condoned as an acceptable and reasonable form of any family planning program. Therefore, the reversal of the Mexico City Policy by President Obama is nothing other than misplaced ideology.

Does federal law say anything about providing foreign aid dollars to abortion providers? Yes, Congress adopted the Helms Amendment in 1973 (carried as an appropriations rider), which states that: "No foreign assistance funds may be used to pay for the performance of abortion as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortions." The Mexico City Policy is an attempt to abide by our law and ensure that federal funds do not promote what federal funds cannot be used for.

Why is the Mexico City Policy needed when current law prohibits federal funding for abortions overseas? Many Members may be concerned that as long as U.S. tax dollars are granted to providers who both practice abortion and family planning activities, U.S. dollars will ultimately subsidize abortions because money is fungible.

HOUSE VALUES ACTION TEAM PRIORITIES

111th Congress, 1st Session | Congressman Joseph R. Pitts, Chairman

Life

Offense:

- Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (Ros-Lehtinen)
- Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act (C. Smith)
- Human Cloning Prohibition Act (Stupak/Wamp)
- Post-abortion Research and Care Act (Pitts)
- Title X Provider Prohibition Act (Pence)
- Positive Alternatives Act (Bachmann)
- Ultrasound Informed Consent Act (Jordan)
- Patients First Act (Forbes)
- Funding for cord blood
- Reinstate Mexico City Policy (C. Smith)

Defense:

- Taxpayer funding for human embryonic stem cell research
- Protect pro-life appropriations provisions
- Taxpayer funding for abortion
- Over-regulation of Pregnancy Resource Centers
- Funding for Planned Parenthood and Title X
- Mandate for emergency contraception
- Liberalization of policies on foreign aid
- Conscience protections for health care entities

Marriage

Offense:

- Defense of Marriage Amendment (Lungren)
- Marriage Protection Amendment (Broun)
- Marriage Protection Act (Burton)

Defense:

- Hate Crimes (Conyers)
- Employment NonDiscrimination Act (Frank)
- Over turning current military don't-ask-don't-tell policy
- Domestic partnership benefits

Abstinence

Offense:

- Reauthorize Title V abstinence education program
- Obtain parity between abstinence and contraception- based sex education with budget neutrality

Defense:

- Medical Accuracy Amendment
- Removal of A-H Abstinence Definition

Religious Liberty

Offense:

- The Public Expression of Religion Act (Burton)
- Religious Heritage Resolution (Forbes)
- Workplace Religious Freedom Act (Souder)
- Public Prayer Protection Act (Barrett)

Defense:

- Faith-based hiring protections
- Removal of God from the public domain

Tax

Offense:

- Marriage Tax Penalty Elimination Act (Brown-Waite)
- Adoption Tax Relief Guarantee Act (Joe Wilson)
- Child Tax Credit Preservation Act (Posey)

Defense:

- New taxes that will hurt American Families
- Reinstatement of the marriage penalty

Indecency/Pornography

- Protecting Children from Indecent Programming (Pitts)

Activist Judges/Court Stripping

- Pledge Protection Act (Akin)

Parental Rights

- Parents' Right to Know Act (Akin)
- Parental Right to Decide Protection Act (Gingrey)
- Parental Rights Amendment (Hoekstra)

Education

- Reauthorization of DC School choice vouchers
- Hope for the Children Act (Franks) A-Plus Act (Hoekstra)
- School Choice for Foster Kids Act (Bachmann)

Gambling

Defense:

- Expansion of off-reservation casinos
- Efforts to undermine Internet gambling laws (Frank)

keeping the

CENSUS NEUTRAL



CENSUS

STATUS OF EVENTS

News reports indicate that the Administration is considering having the Census Bureau report directly to the White House, though no official policy has yet been announced. However, Republican lawmakers continue to raise their concerns. On February 11, 2009, a letter was sent by several members of the House Republican Conference, including Republican Leader John Boehner, Republican Whip Eric Cantor, and Conference Chairman Mike Pence, asking the Administration to abandon any plan to undermine the independence of the Census Bureau.

TALKING POINTS

The President's reported plans are unprecedented and outrageous. This action is nothing more than a political power grab by the Administration. The Census Bureau has a history of remaining free from political influence, and this reported action reverses this long-standing tradition – to the detriment of the nation.

The President's reported plan politicizes an agency that needs to remain independent. The Census Bureau performs duties that are prescribed in the Constitution and critical to the functioning of our democracy. Manipulating this process will skew our congressional representation for the next ten years, and allow the White House to pick winners and losers across the country.

It is vitally important that Congress intervene to stop this dangerous action. It is incumbent upon the Congress to restore the traditional role of independence the Bureau has long enjoyed and needs. Before the President nominates a new Commerce Secretary, he must commit to abandon any plan that would undermine the integrity of the decennial census.

PRESS THEMES

Wall Street Journal: *Intended move by the President is not about science, it's about politics.* “Anything that threatens the integrity of the Census has profound implications. Not only is it the basis for congressional redistricting, it provides the raw data by which government spending is allocated on everything from roads to schools. The Bureau of Labor Statistics also uses the Census to prepare the economic data that so much of business relies upon.” (John Fund, “Why Obama Wants Control of the Census,” February 10, 2009.)

FOXNEWS: *Republicans are raising the alarm about the President's intention to politicize the census.* “Utah's congressional delegation is calling President Obama's decision to move the U.S. census into the White House a purely partisan move and potentially dangerous to congressional redistricting around the country... ‘This is nothing more than a political land grab,’ [Rep. Jason] Chaffetz said.” (“GOP Sounds Alarm Over Obama Decision to Move Census to White House,” February 9, 2009.)

World Net Daily: *White House grabs 2010 census power.* “In a move with major political implications for voting, districting and representation in future elections, the Obama administration has demanded oversight of the 2010 U.S. census. The move has Republicans crying foul, alleging that transferring the power of census-taking from the Commerce Department, which normally oversees the U.S. Census Bureau, to the White House is an attempt to manipulate redistricting of congressional seats.” (Drew Zahn, “White House grabs 2010 census power,” February 7, 2009.)

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As Republicans who share a goal of a fair, accurate and trustworthy 2010 Census that counts every person, we are surprised and disappointed by reports that your administration is taking the unprecedented step of moving control of the Census Bureau and the 2010 Census from the Commerce Department to political operatives on the White House staff. We are writing to register our grave concerns about this change, which would result in the unprecedented politicization of the Census^[1] and open the door to massive waste and abuse in the expenditure of taxpayer funds, billions of which are distributed on the basis of Census data. We respectfully request that you reconsider and reverse this controversial and harmful course of action.

As noted on the U.S. Census Bureau's own website, "Census data are used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to provide, and to distribute \$300 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year." Placing the Census under the control of political operatives in the White House will inevitably corrupt the independence of all of these critical Census functions, and could result in a dramatic increase in abuse and misallocation of taxpayer funds at a time when both parties should be working together to eliminate such waste.

There is no legitimate historical precedent for placing the nonpartisan, apolitical Census Bureau under the control of political operatives on the White House staff, let alone the former chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC). Doing so will, in fact, greatly undermine the goal of a fair and accurate Census count. The Census Bureau is staffed by experienced and talented professionals who are leaders in the field of statistics. In order to produce a fair, accurate and trustworthy count during the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau needs to remain an agency free from political or partisan interference.

This is a bipartisan goal. In fact, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) introduced legislation in September 2008 that specifically stated:

"The credibility and impartiality of data from a Federal statistical agency depends critically on whether the agency operates from a strong position of independence; therefore, the authority for conducting the decennial census of population and any economic or other censuses or surveys should be vested in an agency with a clear and well-defined position of independence."^[2]

^[1] *Washington Post*, Philip Rucker, 2/5/09

^[2] "Restoring the Integrity of American Statistics Act of 2008," H.R. 7069

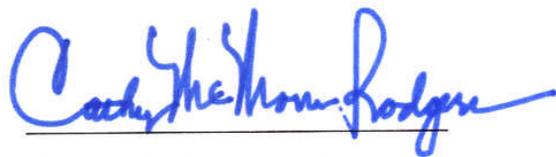
The importance of an independent Census was emphasized last year in a letter signed by every living former Census Director, appointed by both Democrat and Republican Presidents, in which they wrote:

“[F]ollowing three decades during which the press and the Congress frequently discussed the Decennial Census in explicitly partisan terms it is vitally important that the American public have confidence that the census results have been produced by an independent, non-partisan, apolitical, and scientific Census Bureau.”^[3]

After the 2000 Census, former Committee Chairman Waxman, former Minority Leader Dick Gephardt and former Democratic Caucus Chairman Martin Frost expressed their “hope that the Census Bureau did not suffer from inappropriate political pressure,” and went on to “urge the Bush Administration to allow the professionals at the Census Bureau to continue their work without interference.”^[4] Now, prior to the 2010 Census, we express our hope that the Census Bureau will not suffer from inappropriate political pressure. It is critical that we allow the professionals at the Census Bureau to continue their work without interference, and that we assure American taxpayers that the annual distribution of the \$300 billion in federal aid based on Census data will not be squandered and tainted by partisan influence.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you reconsider and reverse your administration’s plans to transfer control of the Census Bureau and the 2010 Census to the White House staff. A fair, accurate and trustworthy Census is essential and vital to the interests of all American citizens and taxpayers.

Sincerely,



^[3] Letter of endorsement from former Census Directors Vincent P. Barabba (1973-76 and 1979-81), Bruce Chapman (1981-1983), John G. Keane (1984 – 1987), Barbara Everitt Bryant (1989 -1993), Martha Farnsworth Riche (1994-1998), Kenneth Prewitt (1998-2001) and Charles Louis Kincannon (2002 - 2008). “The signatures to this Letter served as Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, appointed by Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, G. H. Bush, Bill Clinton, and G. W. Bush,” 9/28/08

^[4] Statement from the Office of the House Democratic Leader, 3/1/01

Pete Sessions

Ray Hunt

David Owen

Kevin McArthur

David Lee

Patricia McKenna

Lynnette

Lamar Smith

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House Republican Conference

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