Tread Boldly

SOLUTIONS, HARD WORK, AND NO REGRETS.

SUMMER 2010 DISTRICT WORK PERIOD

America Speaking Out

CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE

Over the last 18 months, the American people have been more engaged in politics than at any time in memory. Yet while Americans have been speaking out, those running Congress have ignored their voices, pushing forward an out-of-touch agenda that contradicts the priorities of the American people. To give Americans back a voice and bridge the disconnect between America's priorities and Washington's agenda, House Republicans this summer launched a project called America Speaking Out.

America Speaking Out was borne out of a basic frustration that Washington isn't listening, and the goal has been to engage the American people so a new agenda can be crafted to accurately reflect their priorities. Through this multi-faceted effort, House Republicans have opened the doors to the backrooms of Congress, engaging the American people in person and online to solicit their input in an open and transparent manner. To date, House Republicans have held more than 100 town hall events across the nation involving thousands of Americans, and these events will continue throughout the summer.

Central to the project is an innovative new web forum that employs cutting edge technology but is rooted in a simple idea – providing average Americans a bigger platform to make their voices heard. On the site, AmericaSpeakingOut.com, all Americans, regardless of party affiliation, can submit solutions, register their opinions on them, debate priorities, and join their friends and neighbors in contributing to an historic dialogue of ideas. Since its launch, more than half-a-million Americans have visited AmericaSpeakingOut.com, and cast more than 600,000 votes on the more than 12,000 ideas posted.

And already the input collected from America Speaking Out and another groundbreaking House Republican project, YouCut, is having an effect on Congress. Republicans have taken ideas directly from the American people to the floor of the House to be voted up or down, such as providing an audit of the Federal Reserve and repealing the individual mandate of the new health care law. Ideas from the website have also been explored at policy hearings, and as Republicans have introduced solutions, they have been posted on AmericaSpeakingOut.com to allow open and transparent debate.

Through America Speaking Out town halls, policy forums, and online engagement, House Republicans have been able to listen to and understand the priorities of the American people. And while this summer the dialogue will continue, there are certain priorities that continue to be heard, such as:

- Americans want Congress to focus on private-sector job creation and foster an environment for economic growth.

- Americans want a government that has the checks and balances our forefathers envisioned, and not a Congress that simply rubberstamps the policies of the President without the considered debate of opposing views.

- Americans are concerned about the size of government, runaway Washington spending, and a crushing debt burden on our children and grandchildren.

- Americans believe Washington is broken and reforms are needed to ensure Congress operates with accountability, transparency, and integrity.

- Americans want to know that Congress is dedicated to keeping them safe, at home, abroad, and at our borders.

- Americans reject the government takeover of health care that was forced upon them and would like to see it replaced with common-sense solutions to lower costs and protect jobs.

Job Creation

While the American people have been asking *where are the jobs?* Democrats in Congress have been advancing an agenda that kills jobs and creates uncertainty for America's small businesses.

Stop the Economic Uncertainty

Looming tax hikes, increasing regulation, government intervention into the private sector, and skyrocketing debt have created economic uncertainty, freezing investment and hiring.

Promises, Promises, Promises

1. The so-called stimulus spending has failed to create the jobs that were promised and has significantly contributed to our record budget deficits.
2. Since passage of the stimulus, the American economy has lost 2.4 million jobs overall and 2.6 million jobs in the private sector.
3. Democrats promised unemployment would remain under 8 percent if we passed the stimulus package, yet 18 months later unemployment still hovers close to 10 percent.
4. Democrats have no plan to create private-sector jobs.

Taxes ::: Beginning in January 2011, Democrats are planning on increasing taxes by $3.8 trillion. Unless the Democrats' tax hikes are prevented:

- Every American taxpayer would face higher rates,
- The marriage penalty would return,
- The child tax credit would be halved,
- The Death Tax would soar to 55 percent,
- The Alternative Minimum Tax would ensnare more than 25 million taxpayers, and higher taxes would be levied on investments.

Republicans are fighting to stop the Democrats' massive tax hikes on small businesses and working families that will have a devastating impact on job creation and our economy as a whole.

Job Killing Regulations ::: From the government takeover of health care to onerous energy regulations to new rules in the financial regulation bill, the explosion of major new regulations is preventing job creators from planning for the future. These new regulations are often written by unaccountable Washington bureaucrats with no consideration for how they will affect job growth in America.

Over Spending ::: Washington's reckless spending binge has created record deficits and debt. The $1.5 trillion annual budget deficit, $13 trillion national debt, and lack of a plan to get spending under control are impeding economic growth. Irresponsible government spending is not the solution to our economic woes; it has only contributed to them.

To create jobs we must stop the Democrats' massive tax hikes on families and small businesses, create stability for America's job creators, provide incentives for investment, and rein in out-of- control spending.

Job Creation Solutions for Discussion

Stop the Democrats' Tax Hikes on Working Families and Small Businesses

The last thing our economy needs is crushing tax increases. Stopping the looming Democratic tax increases would keep more money in the pockets of America's working families, encourage investment, and provide financial relief for America's small businesses. It would also provide immediate certainty for American job creators so they can hire new workers with the confidence that a higher tax bill is not on the way.

Cut Government Red Tape

Excessive federal regulation is a de facto tax on employers and consumers that stifles job creation and hampers innovation and investment in the economy. American small businesses cannot plan for the future with ever-changing rules. To provide stability, no major new rule proposed by the executive agencies should be enforced without Congressional approval. A "major new rule" would be defined as any regulation that would have an annual effect on the economy of at least $100 million or would create a significant increase in costs or prices for the American people. The White House's own internal departments have identified 191 planned rulemakings that will have an economic cost of at least $100 million.

Provide Incentives for Small Business Growth

Small Business Administration statistics show that small businesses are responsible for roughly 70 percent of all job creation in our economy. We should allow businesses with fewer than 500 employees to take a tax deduction equal to 20 percent of their income. This would allow for extra capital for investment and new hiring to kick start a robust recovery.

Ensure Access to Credit for Small Businesses

Provisions of the latest financial regulation bill discourage banks from lending to job creators, especially small businesses, and should be repealed. Congress should also reform banking oversight to ensure that bank regulators do not block access to loans for credit-worthy businesses.

Small Business Paperwork Reduction

Buried in the thousands of pages of the new health care law is a requirement that all businesses must issue 1099 forms to each contractor with whom they do more than $600 worth of business. This means literally millions of new forms filed and millions of dollars in additional tax compliance costs for businesses and no doubt millions in additional tax dollars required to fund the IRS bureaucrats it will take to handle the additional workload. Instead of making health care coverage more accessible and affordable for small businesses, the law only makes compliance more difficult and burdensome, which is why this mandate should be repealed.

Spending Cuts Instead of More "Stimulus" Spending

The spending spree in Washington is hurting our economy, not helping it. Economists have urged President Obama to abandon his quest for additional "stimulus" spending and instead work with Republicans in Congress who want to rein in government spending and end tax hikes and job-killing mandates that cause uncertainty for small businesses.

Spending Restraint

The American people are speaking out for an end to Congress' irresponsible spending spree, the culture of waste in Washington, and government bailouts that force hard-working taxpayers to subsidize the irresponsible behavior of others.

Out-of-Control Government Spending

Washington's spending habit has exploded under Democratic control of government. Both Republican and Democratic Congresses of the past have spent too much, yet the current majority has demonstrated unparalleled fiscal recklessness.

- Over the past two years, discretionary spending has increased by 84%.
- This year, the deficit will approach $1.5 trillion, following last year's $1.4 trillion deficit.
- Today, Washington spends $7 million every minute of every hour of every day.
- To finance its habit, the government must borrow 42 cents of every dollar spent.
- As a result, our national deficit will this year exceed $13 trillion, which is $42,000 for every man, woman, and child in America.
- Within 3 years, our government will spend more than $1 billion a day on interest on the debt. That money won't build roads, fight terrorism, secure our border, or support Medicare for seniors. It is simply the cost of Congress' failure to control spending.

Size and Scope of Government

There is literally no aspect of our economy or our society that the federal government doesn't tax, regulate or subsidize, and often it does all three at the same time. Taxpayers are funding federal programs, literally, from cradle to grave. Over the last two years, through taxpayer bailouts and regulatory power grabs, the government has intruded into nearly every area of the private sector.

A Historic Failure to Produce a Budget

Washington Democrats have refused to take any steps to eliminate, restrain, or even budget for their wasteful spending. For the first time since the Budget Act was passed over three decades ago the majority did not pass or even offer a budget, missing an important opportunity to get spending under control and promote job creation. This is the only time in modern history that the House of Representatives has not passed a budget plan.

Democrats' only answer to runaway spending has been to appoint another Washington commission to "tackle the problem." Conveniently, this commission will not report back with any proposals until after the November election. In the mean-time, Congressional Democrats have continued their spending unchecked, proposing billions of dollars in new spending, dozens of new programs, and thousands of earmarks.

Spending Restraint Solutions for Discussion

Action that can be taken today:

- Cut Spending Immediately
  While recognizing the need for structural ways to reverse the growth of government, there are actions Congress can take right away to promote fiscal responsibility and cut spending, such as:
  - Canceling unspent "stimulus" funds, saving up to $266 billion;
  - Canceling excessive spending increases already in the pipeline.
- Cap Discretionary Spending
  Since 2008, non-defense discretionary spending—the level of which is determined each year by Congress—has increased by 24%. If you include the stimulus money, spending has increased by a whopping 84%. And each year Congress adds more spending on top of what it approved the year before. Reducing spending from current levels and imposing a hard cap on future growth would generate savings for the taxpayer in excess of $340 billion.

End Bailouts Permanently

- Congress should put an end to the bailouts of private business that force responsible taxpayers to subsidize irresponsible behavior, as well as end the bailouts of state and local governments that do nothing but transfer debt to a federal government with no means of paying for it. Cancel the Troubled Asset Relief Program [TARP], which would save an estimated $16 billion.
- Get the government out of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and on a path toward privatization by ending their conservatorship, shrinking their portfolios, establishing minimum capital standards, reducing conforming loan limits, and bringing transparency to taxpayer exposure, which would save an estimated $30 billion.

Reduce the Size of Government

Americans are ready for a comprehensive campaign to reverse the growth in government over the past decade. Government spending cannot be controlled if the size of government is not put in check. A fundamental change in the culture of spending in Washington can be achieved if we:

- **Freeze Congress' Budget.** Congress should not be spending more while the private sector is cutting back. By freezing the total appropriations for the Legislative Branch, Congress will have to find savings and stop its own growth.
- **Stop the Expansion of the Federal Bureaucracy.** Since the President took office, the federal civilian workforce has already grown by approximately 15%. Imposing a net hiring freeze would help ensure that the public sector no longer grows at the expense of the private sector.
- **Eliminate Unnecessary and Duplicative Federal Programs.** Once created, federal programs almost never go away, even if the problem they were created to address is no longer relevant. Over twenty states have addressed this problem by requiring that programs be ended, or "sunset," by a date certain. Adopting this requirement on the federal level would force Congress to determine if a program is worthy of continued taxpayer support.
- **Hold Weekly Votes to Cut Spending.** We can change the spending culture by changing the way Congress spends its time. Rather than only considering bills each week that spend

money, Congress should bring bills to the floor every week to reduce spending.

- **Audit the Government for Ways to Save.** Congress should initiate a review of every federal program and provide strict oversight to uncover and eliminate waste and duplication.

Focus on Our Fiscal Challenges

Focus on Our Fiscal Challenges: The current budget process focuses only on about 40% of the budget and just the near-term -- usually the next twelve months. We know that we have significant medium and long-term fiscal challenges fueled by the demographic changes in our country. The Government Accountability Office estimates that we have $76 trillion in unfunded liabilities. Rather than simply ignoring these challenges, Congress should reform its budget process to ensure that Congress begins making the decisions that are necessary to update our entitlement programs to secure them for today's seniors and save them for future generations.

National Security

President Obama and Democrats in Congress continue to push an ideological vision for America's role in the world that fails to protect U.S. national security interests both at home and abroad. We must recognize the dangerous world we live in and protect the American people by fighting terrorism, supporting our troops, strengthening our military, defending democracy, and stopping the violence on our borders.

A Dangerous World

The United States faces a complex and dangerous international environment. Yet at a time when we need collaboration and assistance from our traditional allies, President Obama is focused on coddling our adversaries and snubbing our friends.

- President Obama wasted sixteen months insisting his policy of personal engagement with the Iranian regime would compel it to come to the negotiating table, only to see them respond with belligerent rhetoric and aggression, developing nuclear capacity.
- President Obama has repeatedly pushed Israel, our closest ally in the Middle East, to make concessions in the peace process while putting almost no pressure on the Palestinians.
- President Obama announced his intent to close the Guantanamo Bay Detention Center with no serious plan for what to do with the murderous terrorists held there. Suggestions by his Administration to import the terrorists to American prisons have been rejected by the American people, and he is long past his self-imposed deadline for closure.
- President Obama and his Justice Department have chosen to treat terrorist suspects as common criminals with civilian trials in U.S. courts. Their proposal to bring 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed to New York City for trial would afford Mohammed all the rights of a U.S. citizen.

Support our Military Personnel and Families

Our military personnel deployed throughout the world, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan, need to know that the our nation and our Congress will always ensure they have the resources needed to safely and successfully complete their mission. Too often Democrats in Congress have used funding for our troops as a vehicle to pass extraneous liberal priorities. What's more, funding for our national security appears to be the only area of our budget that Democrats are willing to cut. Republicans support President Obama in his mission in Iraq and Afghanistan, but also demand that Congress provide for our men and women in uniform in a way that respects and protects their service.

National Security Threatened at the Border

Americans across the country want their government to act on its Constitutional duty to protect the border and stop the rampant border crime and drug trafficking. As Mexican drug cartels and smugglers openly battle each other on both sides of our border and kidnap people in the U.S., Americans are calling for action. Yet rather than addressing our crisis on the border, the Obama administration is suing the people of Arizona for trying to enforce the law. Our government should be taking immediate steps to enforce federal immigration laws and provide security at our borders, instead of focusing its resources on an Arizona lawsuit.

National Security Solutions for Discussion

Prohibit Leniency to Foreign Terrorists

Foreign terrorists do not and should not have the same rights as American citizens, and foreign terrorists should not be given more rights than U.S. military personnel have. To keep America safe and secure, Congress must:

- Keep Guantanamo open and prevent the importation of terrorists into our communities;
- Ensure foreign terrorists are tried in military, not civilian, court;
- Ensure our military, intelligence, and law enforcement personnel operating overseas do not provide "Miranda rights" to terrorists; and hold the Administration accountable for any Guantanamo Bay detainees it releases who return to fight against our troops or become involved in any terrorist plots or activities.

Protect the Homeland by Fully Funding Missile Defense

With belligerent nations seeking powerful weapons, we must support a robust, layered missile defense system capable of protecting the United States homeland, our deployed military forces, and our allies. House Republicans will ensure critical funding is restored to protect the U.S. from missile threats from rogue states such as Iran and North Korea.

Enforce Sanctions Against Iran

Americans are calling on the Administration to aggressively and effectively implement the sanctions tools Congress has provided.

Provide Resources, Authority, and Support to our Military

It is vital to provide our deployed military all the resources and authority they need to successfully complete their missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Future defense budgets must strike the right balance between meeting current national security needs and preparing for future threats, while ensuring responsible benefits for military personnel and their families.

Protect our Borders

With strong enforcement of our laws, cooperation with state and local officials, and making security a budget priority, we can stop the crisis on the borders and support legal immigration by:

- Providing the Border Patrol Operational Control and prohibiting bureaucracies from interfering with Border Patrol enforcement activities on federal lands.
- Reaffirming the Inherent Authority of State and Local Enforcement Powers to assist in the enforcement of all federal immigration laws.
- Fighting Transnational Gangs by making members deportable and inadmissible, mandating their detention, and barring them from receiving asylum or temporary protected status.

Government Reform

Americans are fed up with the backroom deals, abuses of power, disregard for the Constitution, and the shadowy ways that bills become law. Republicans are committed to reforming the way Congress works so that it is transparent, open, and accountable to the people.

Open government that is transparent and participatory is the best way to ensure that representatives in Washington do not overstep Constitutional authority and effectively represent the will of the people. Unfortunately, this Congress has become increasingly shuttered, with Washington Democrats abusing their power to draft, debate, and advance legislation outside of the public eye. As one key Democratic lawmaker put it when discussing the rules of the House, "we make them up as we go along."

Backroom Deals & Abuses of Power

The operation of the House of Representatives under Democratic control has been a remarkable display of Washington arrogance. Speaker Pelosi has shut out Republicans and many of her own party from offering amendments or having any input at all on bills brought up for a vote. When Democrats have not had the votes to pass measures, they resorted to "deeming" them as passed. An unpopular, expensive, and intrusive government takeover of health care became law only through the use of payoffs, kickbacks, and sweetheart deals. Regularly, consequential bills are brought up for a vote with less than 24 hours to read the measures. For example:

- **The Trillion-Dollar 'Stimulus'** – In one of the most infamous displays of brazen partisanship, Democratic leaders posted the text of their 'stimulus' bill in the dark of night well past midnight, complete with hand-scribbled edits, only to turn around and force members to vote on it less than 12 hours later. It was later discovered that a provision providing bonuses for AIG employees had been inserted at the last minute.
- **A "Cap-and-Trade" National Energy Tax** – House Democrats passed a national energy tax bill loaded with special-interest giveaways no one had discovered because a 300-page, never-before-seen amendment to their already massive 1,200-page bill was unveiled at 3:00 a.m. on the day of the vote.
- **$500 Billion Omnibus Spending Bill** – In the rush to leave Washington in December 2009, Democratic leaders rushed a 2,500-page, half trillion dollar omnibus spending bill to the floor with less than 24 hours notice and just one hour of debate.
- **Failure to Pass a Budget** – In 2010, for the first time in modern history, the House failed to pass a budget resolution, declining to make the decisions that Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) once called "the most basic responsibility of governing." This abdication of responsibility left federal spending on virtual autopilot, without tough decisions being made, at a time when the national debt has skyrocketed to more than $13 trillion.

Disregard for the Constitution

The Constitution should be at the center of every bill debated by Congress. Yet as government has grown in reach and scope, we have lost touch with the necessary limits of authority that our Constitution imposes on government. All three branches of the Federal government must act only within their constitutionally mandated enumerated powers, and the era of overreach and neglect of the Constitution must end.

Renewing A Commitment to Openness

House Republicans have called for reforms that will ensure the House is run differently – differently from both the current Democratic majority in Congress and past Republican majorities. Congress should make a renewed commitment to openness and transparency. The federal government should be constrained to its legitimate constitutional functions. And backroom deals should be traded in for accountability to those that Congress represents - the People.

Government Reform Solutions for Discussion

Let America "read the bill"

Congress should immediately pass a rule that allows all bills to be debated in the public square by publishing the text online for at least 3 days before the House of Representatives may vote on them.

Adhere to the Constitution

Congress should require that every bill debated on the floor of the House contain a citation of Constitutional Authority. If there is a question about the constitutionality of a proposal, it should be subject to debate and a vote.

End the practice of "omnibus" bills

Congress should end the practice of attaching unpopular legislation to "must pass" bills simply to circumvent the will of the House. Too often Congress creates massive bills that impact unrelated parts of the economy, such as merging an education bill with funding for our troops. Major legislation should only be advanced one issue at a time.

Bring Sunshine to the Committee Process

Congress should immediately open the doors to the secretive Rules Committee, which decides which bills and amendments are brought to a vote and which topics are debated, and allow cameras to televise all of the committee's meetings.

Review the Committee Structure

Congress should review its internal committee structure to keep up with the ever-growing bureaucracy, ensure there is proper oversight, and eliminate duplicative programs and jurisdictions.

Bipartisan Floor Debate

Ensure an open debate and amendment process on any legislation that spends the people's money.

Change How Congress Spends Its Time

With all the challenges facing our nation, it is disgraceful that Congress spends so much time on bills to name post offices, congratulate sports teams, and bestow honors on organizations. Congress should implement reforms regarding the type of legislation that is considered to ensure that priority is placed on reviving the economy and reducing unnecessary spending – not, for example, celebrating national pi day and Confucius' birthday.

Enact Reforms That Favor Saving Over Spending

The Democratic majority has used its power to prevent votes and even debate on proposals to cut spending. Debate and a vote should be guaranteed on any proposal designed to cut spending out of a bill.

Ensure that Congressional Spending is Based on Merit

A decision to spend the people's money, whether the amount is large or small, should be based solely on merit, not political power. Congress should establish objective benchmarks for each federal program and hold the program to account. The inclusion of benchmarks for the welfare program in the 1990s fundamentally changed the welfare program, moving millions of families off of welfare and into jobs and saving taxpayers billions of dollars. This model should be extended to other programs.

Commit to Write a Budget Every Year

It is a fundamental role of Congress to write a budget every year that provides justifications for how and why the government is spending the people's tax dollars.

Health Care Reform

Americans are calling for the repeal of the job-killing, budget-busting new health care law. Congress should listen to the American people and replace the law with common sense solutions to bring down costs and protect the doctor-patient relationship.

President Obama and congressional Democrats promised their government takeover of health care would create jobs, lower costs, reduce the deficit, allow Americans to keep their health care, protect seniors' coverage, and prohibit taxpayer-funded abortion. Not only have these promises been proven false, but in every instance the new health law has made matters worse.

- **Killing Jobs.** Despite President Obama's wild claim that his health care plan was also a jobs plan, some of the nation's largest employers have already announced they will be forced to make cutbacks as a result of the new health law's costly, job-killing mandates.

- **Increasing Costs.** Two independent government entities – the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the chief actuary at the Obama Administration's own Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) – have confirmed that the new law fails to lower health care costs and reduce the deficit as promised.

- **Raising Taxes.** The new health law includes at least a dozen violations of President Obama's pledge to not raise taxes on middle-class families, including an unconstitutional, burdensome tax on those who do not purchase government-approved health care.

- **Hurting Seniors .**The government has confirmed that the new law's massive Medicare cuts will fall squarely on the backs of seniors, millions of whom will be forced off their current Medicare coverage.

- **If You Like It…You Can't Keep It.** The Obama Administration has been forced to acknowledge that the new law will force some 87 million Americans to drop their current coverage, despite President Obama's promise that Americans would be able to keep the coverage that they have.

- **Taxpayer Funding of Abortion.** The Obama Administration has provided no update whatsoever on its efforts to implement the Executive Order that President Obama claimed would bar taxpayer funding of abortion under new health law.

- **Uprising from the States.** Dozens of states have revolted against the new law's job-killing, budget-crushing mandates. The nation's leading small business organization, the National Federation of Independent Business, has joined with 20 states in fighting to overturn the job-killing, unconstitutional 'individual mandate' at the heart of the new law.

The enormous costs and regulatory burdens of the new law are damaging the American economy, our nation's fiscal health, and the relationship between patients and their physician. Instead of a government takeover of health care, Congress should fight for reforms that protect jobs and lower the cost of health care coverage for families and small businesses.

Health Care Reform Solutions for Discussion

Repeal It Congress should immediately act to repeal the new health care law that kills jobs, raises taxes, threatens seniors' access to care, will cause millions of people to lose the coverage they have and like, and increases the cost of health care coverage.

Replace it with Better Solutions The status quo in our health care system is unacceptable. There are concrete steps Congress can take to lower health care costs, empower patients, and provide for the most vulnerable in our society.

Lower health care costs
Congress should address Americans' number-one priority and lower health care premiums for families and small businesses by:

- **Ending junk lawsuits**
  By enacting real medical liability reforms, modeled after successful state laws that reduce unnecessary spending and lower health insurance premiums, we can end costly junk lawsuits and curb the practice of defensive medicine that needlessly add billions of dollars of cost to the health care system.

- **Purchasing across state lines**
  By allowing Americans to shop for health insurance coverage from coast to coast regardless of the state they live in, Congress can empower consumers and increase competition in the market and lower premiums.

- **Empowering small businesses**
  By giving small businesses the power to pool together, just as corporations and labor unions do, they could offer health insurance to employees at lower prices.

- **Enhancing Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)**
  By creating new incentives to save for future health needs, more Americans could use tax-free HSAs to pay health insurance premiums.

- **Help those with pre-existing conditions**
  Congress should allow states to reform and establish high-risk pools and reinsurance programs to guarantee that all Americans, regardless of pre-existing conditions or past illnesses, have access to affordable care – while lowering costs for all Americans.

- **Empower and protect the doctor-patient relationship**
  Congress should eliminate taxpayer funding of programs that could lead to government intrusion in the doctor-patient relationship and the rationing of care on the basis of cost. This should also include oversight of the flawed payment policies in Medicare and Medicaid that limit access to care and distort health care costs. Congress should promote innovation and place greater emphasis on prevention and wellness.

- **Permanently prohibit taxpayer funding of abortion**
  Congress should codify the Hyde Amendment and explicitly prohibit all federal funds from being used to pay for abortion.

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