

*The Choice is Clear*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
*of the*  
109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE  

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DEBORAH PRYCE, CHAIRMAN



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House Republicans are committed to securing America's borders and enforcing our immigration laws.

- **Passed Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act** to secure operational control of our borders by adding 1,000 new border inspectors with 700 miles of fencing, ending of "catch-and-release," stopping employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants, and cracking down on alien smuggling.
- **Passed REAL ID Act** to close loopholes in the driver's license issuance process used by terrorists, expedite completion of fencing along the Mexican border and strengthen deportation laws.
- **Passed FY07 Homeland Security Appropriations bill** with \$19.6 billion for border protection and immigration enforcement, \$1.6 billion more than FY06.
- **Passed FY07 SSJC Appropriations bill** with \$1.1 billion to stop terrorists from using fraudulent visas.
- **Passed Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill** with \$1.9 billion to bolster border security.
  - **More than \$700 million to deploy 6000 members of the National Guard by August 1.** Since deployment began last month, we have seen fewer border crossings demonstrating an increased deterrence.
  - **\$330 million to hire 1000 new border agents.** Since 1995, Republicans have increased the number of agents from 5,000 to 12,000.
  - **\$277 million for detention and removal,** including 4,000 new beds to help end "Catch & Release" along the border.

Republicans want to enact a strong bill that secures our borders and puts a premium on strict enforcement of our immigration laws.

## **OUR PRINCIPLES INCLUDE:**

- Enhanced security at our borders with additional resources for state and local government patrol efforts;
- Tighter enforcement, enhanced penalties, and no rewards for those who violate our immigration laws;
- Accountability for employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants;
- Assimilation by learning English.

## **Democrats answer...**

### **...the Reid-Kennedy Bill**

- As many as 60 million new immigrants will be allowed in over the next twenty years.
- Guaranteed Social Security benefits for illegal immigrants for time they worked in the U.S. illegally.
- Mexico would be consulted before strengthening our border.
- Illegal immigrants given the option to pay in-state tuition for college, while citizens pay full price.
- Rejected English as our National Language.

**The Choice is Clear:** Republicans stand firm on border security, while Democrats offer troubling policies to weaken immigration laws and leave our borders open.

This issue is too important for half measures – and we plan to do it right. House Republicans are committed to sending President Bush a bill that reflects our principles.

### 3 CHILD & FAMILY SAFETY

House Republicans are committed to protecting America's children and families.

- **Signed into law the Trafficking Victims Protection Act** to provide support services for women and children who are victims of trafficking in the U.S. and abroad, and give law enforcement tools to fight demand - the pimps and johns who keep the demand for sex slavery high.
- **Signed into law the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act** to improve criminal justice and community-based responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
- **Passed Children's Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act** to initiate sex offender registration, notification, and verification requirements and penalties for violations. Sex offender registries greatly increase the knowledge residents have about their communities.
- **Passed Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act** to ensure that law enforcement officials—from cops on the beat to district attorneys in the courtroom—have the tools they need to protect their communities.
- **Passed Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act** designed to prevent attacks against judges and the entire courthouse family and punish those who commit these crimes.

House Republicans have taken steps to give Americans greater peace of mind knowing that their children and families are safe in their communities.

## **Protecting children, women, and families from violence and destructive behavior.**

- Passed FY07 Appropriations bill to provide \$176 million to eliminate DNA backlogs, \$390 million for Violence Against Women Act programs, and \$99 million to fight methamphetamine.

**Putting an end to domestic violence in America.** The Republican-led Violence Against Women Act has proven effective. Organizations, businesses, and communities are responding to victims' needs and studies show that the rate of violence and reporting of crimes is improving.

- Since 1995, states have passed 600 laws to combat domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- Since 1996, the National Domestic Violence Hotline has answered over 1 million calls. It receives over 16,000 calls a month.

## **AMBER Alert is making a difference in saving children's lives.**

- Republicans created a national AMBER Alert network to target child kidnappers, molesters, and pornographers.
- In the last 10 years, AMBER Alert has saved the lives of over 240 children.
- Perpetrators are well aware of the power of AMBER Alert, and in many cases have released an abducted child upon hearing the alert.

House Republicans are committed to providing for our national defense by arming our military and intelligence operations with the tools they need to keep America safe.

- **Passed appropriations bills to fund our military and defense priorities**, including a military pay raise; increased funding for force protection needs such as body armor; funding to develop improvised explosive device countermeasures; and an increased investment in military health care.
- **Passed appropriations bills to fund our homeland security priorities**, including \$19 billion for border protection and immigration enforcement.
- **Passed legislation authorizing \$512 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense and other national security programs.**
- **Passed a resolution reaffirming the United States' commitment to winning the global war on terror** and protecting our nation from terrorist threats.
- **Passed a resolution to affirm Congress' support for military recruiters' presence on college campuses** and discourage Congress and the executive branch from awarding federal contracts or grants to colleges and universities that refuse military recruiters access to their campuses.

## **Achievements of our National Defense to keep Americans safe:**

- **Military:**
  - Al-Qaeda has lost its safe haven in Afghanistan.
  - Terrorist leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is dead.
  - Saddam Hussein is behind bars
  - More than 3/4 of al-Qaeda's known leaders and associates have been detained or killed.
  - The al-Qaeda network has been significantly degraded.
- **Financial:**
  - We have cut off financing for terrorist activities by blocking nearly \$140 million in terrorist assets in over 1,400 accounts worldwide.
- **Humanitarian:**
  - The U.S. has supplied humanitarian relief in the aftermaths of the Asian Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina.
- **Security at Home:**
  - We are preventing terrorist attacks before they occur, like the West Coast airliner plot, the New York subway plot, and the Jose Padilla dirty bomb plot.

**The Choice is Clear:** Republicans are providing for a strong national defense while Democrats have voted against budgets to increase defense funding; to prohibit a national missile defense program; and against declaring the United States' commitment to win the War on Terror.

## 7 ECONOMY & TAX RELIEF

House Republicans are committed to protecting the hard-earned dollars of American taxpayers, spurring economic growth, and preventing Democrat tax increases.

- **Signed into law the Tax Relief Extension Reconciliation Act** to prevent a \$31 billion tax increase on American families, small businesses, and seniors through alternative minimum tax relief, increasing limits on small business expensing, and lowering the rate on capital gains and dividends.
- **Passed legislation to bury the Death Tax.** In 2001, Republicans enacted a law to repeal the death tax – an unfair tax on farmers and small business owners. But, the tax is set to rise from its grave in 2011. While the House took steps last year to permanently repeal the death tax, in an effort to achieve a compromise with the Senate for a long-term solution, the House passed a measure to provide permanent death tax relief. It is now time for the Senate to act.
- **108-year-old long distance telephone tax ends on July 31.** The federal government has hung up a tax levied in 1898 to fund the Spanish American War. Creating a tax is easy, but getting rid of one is nearly impossible. When taxpayers file their taxes next year, they will get back the past three years of taxes. \$15 billion worth of phone taxes will be refunded to taxpayers.

Tax relief translates into good news for our economy – businesses grow, jobs are created, and incomes rise.

Under Republican stewardship, the American economy has rebounded from the attacks of September 11th, corporate scandals, the bursting of the tech bubble, and unprecedented natural disasters.

More Americans are working today than ever before. Continued job growth, record homeownership rates, and shrinking budget deficits have made our economy stronger.

- **In June**, the U.S. economy created **121,000 new jobs**.
- The economy has created **almost 2 million new jobs over the last 12 months** - and more than 5.4 million jobs since August 2003. 34 consecutive months of sustained job creation.
- The **unemployment rate is 4.6 percent**.
- **GDP** grew at an annual rate of 5.6 percent in the first quarter of 2006 – the fastest rate in 2 ½ years
- **Productivity is increasing**. In the first quarter of 2006, productivity increased at an annual rate of 3.7 percent.
- **Industrial production grew 4.3 percent** over the past year.

**The Choice is Clear:** Republicans want to protect the taxpayer's wallet; the Democrats want to raid it.

House Republicans are committed to strengthening America's education system. In 2006, House Republicans passed key measures to increase opportunities for students to achieve and succeed.

- **The Pell Grant program** – which helps provide college access to low-income students – has risen to an all-time high under Republican control. One million more students are now receiving Pell grants than were 5 years ago.
- **Increase student loan limits** to \$3,500 for 1st year students and to \$4,500 for 2nd year students, to give more students access to financial aid.
- **Reduce loan fees** from 4% to 1% on all student loans so students can keep more of what they borrow.
- **Established grant aid** to reward low-income, high achieving college students pursuing in math, science, and foreign languages.
- **Provided honors scholarships for students** pursuing an undergrad degree in science, math, or engineering.
- **Ease financial burdens on active duty soldiers.**
- **Triple loan relief for math, science, and special education teachers** who teach in high-need schools for 5 years.
- **Extend a \$250 tax deduction** for classroom expenses teachers pay out of their own pockets.
- **Reform the Head Start program** to give disadvantaged students a better chance to succeed in school.

House Republicans have made improving the nation's schools and ensuring every child receives a quality education a top priority.

- **Student achievement is on the rise under No Child Left Behind (NCLB).** The success of NCLB and its emphasis on accountability are unmistakable: achievement gaps between disadvantaged students and their peers are narrowing, and student achievement is at its highest level in decades.
- **Providing students and schools the resources they need to achieve.** Federal funding for education has doubled over the past seven years. Since NCLB was signed into law in 2001, Title I funding for disadvantaged students has increased by 50 percent.
- **Strengthening special education – implementing a stronger IDEA.** Republicans have increased funding for states under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In the first four years of the Bush administration, House Republicans increased IDEA funding by more than \$4.5 billion, or 9 times President Clinton's combined proposed increases during his last four years in office.

**The Choice is Clear:** While Republicans are producing real results for America's children, Democrats have voted against every key education measure considered in the House in 2006. Democrats claim to have the best interest of students in mind, but actions always speak louder than words.

House Republicans understand that the American people need more help lowering the cost of living, and are committed to implementing common-sense energy solutions to lower gas prices and reduce America's reliance on foreign sources of energy, while creating jobs for more Americans.

- **Signed into law the Energy Policy Act** that touches on virtually every aspect of American energy production and consumption, including updating our electrical grids, promoting efficient hybrid cars, expanding traditional oil and gas exploration, and increasing incentives to develop new energy sources.
- **Passed the Gasoline for America's Security Act** to expand American refining capacity and lessen America's dependence on Middle Eastern oil.
- **Passed the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act** to create thousands of American jobs and allow more of America's energy resources to be produced in the deep seas on the outer-continental shelf while empowering states to protect their coastlines.
- **Passed the American-Made Energy and Good Jobs Act** to authorize environmentally-safe energy production in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge; create one million jobs; and increase the supply of American-made energy to lower gasoline prices.
- **Passed the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act** to encourage new refinery capacity to increase gasoline supplies and drive down high prices.

- **Passed the H-Prize Act** to establish incentives to develop breakthrough hydrogen technologies that would increase American energy supplies.
- **Passed the Federal Energy Price Protection Act** to ban price gouging and send a strong signal to any would-be price gougers that they will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

### **Democrats continue to obstruct energy efforts:**

- Democrats voted against a measure that would have streamlined the process of refinery expansion and construction that is so critical to the future of America's energy infrastructure.
- Democrats blocked a bill to put a cap on the number of regional ("boutique") fuels and make gasoline supplies more available during times of disruption.
- 124 House Democrats voted against the energy bill in 2005 to encourage the expansion of clean nuclear energy supplies.
- Democrats consistently oppose measures designed to increase supplies of American energy.

**NO** to increasing domestic supplies of energy;

**NO** to new refineries;

**NO** to old refineries;

**NO** to domestic sources of oil; and

**NO** to efforts to reduce energy costs.

**NO is NOT on Energy Policy.**

**The Choice is Clear:** Republicans stand for common-sense solutions to America's energy challenges. But, when it comes to solving America's energy challenges, Democrats know one word: **NO**

House Republicans are committed to reining in spending and governing in a fiscally responsible way.

- **Passed a responsible budget for FY07** to hold the line on spending and provide reserve funds for emergency disasters.
- **Trimmed appropriations bills by eliminating unnecessary and duplicative programs.** This year, the House has proposed eliminating 95 unnecessary programs, for a savings of almost \$4 billion.
- **Reduced earmarks by 37 percent** – the total amount of earmark spending this year is \$7.8 billion lower than last year.
- **Put the “emergency” back in “emergency spending”** - Republicans successfully prevented the introduction of \$14 billion in non-emergency and unnecessary spending during consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill.
- **Passed the Legislative Line Item Veto Act** to give the president a new tool to combat wasteful and unnecessary spending and promote fiscal responsibility and accountability.
- **Rejected new Democrat spending.** So far this year, the House has rejected over \$45 billion in new proposed Democrat spending above and beyond the levels included in FY 2007 appropriations bills.

Thanks to fiscally responsible Republican economic policies, the deficit for this year is now projected to be 30 percent lower than was projected just 6 months ago.

- **The deficit projection for fiscal year 2006 is down** from \$423 billion in February of this year to \$296 billion - a decrease of \$127 billion. Despite our investment in fighting the war on terror and disaster relief in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we are now on track to cut the deficit in half by 2008, a year ahead of schedule.
- **Republicans' commitment to tax relief, spending restraint, and freedom from oppressive government regulation has resulted in vigorous economic growth.**
  - The economy has created more than 2 million jobs in the last 12 months alone
  - GDP grew at a vigorous annual rate of 5.6 % in the 1st quarter of this year.
  - Productivity is increasing. In the first quarter of 2006, productivity increased at an annual rate of 3.7%.
  - Real hourly compensation rose at an annual rate of 3.2% in the first quarter.
  - Industrial production grew 4.3% over the past year.

**The Choice is Clear:** While Republicans are committed to spending taxpayer dollars wisely and reining in spending, Democrats want to tax more and spend more, taking money out of the pockets of consumers and flattening economic growth, while increasing government's size.

House Republicans have carried the burden of leadership during very difficult times. Our commitment to keeping America safe while fighting terror around the globe has never wavered. Nor will it.

- **Passed a resolution that the U.S. will prevail in the Global War on Terror.**
- **Passed measures to provide** equipment and tools that our troops need to protect themselves and win the fight against terror.
- **Reauthorized and strengthened the Intelligence Act** to ensure that intelligence resources are directed in a balanced way at threats to our national security.
- **Bolstered law enforcement's ability to detect and prosecute terrorist plots.**

## **Democrats have carried a different tune..... Disarray and Division, Retreat and Defeat, Cut and Run**

House Democrats didn't bother to mention the Global War on Terror at any point in their reconfigured "agenda." Republicans rejected Democratic calls for a retreat and defeat strategy of setting an arbitrary date for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

## **The Democratic Minority Leader doesn't know what she believes....**

In 2001 during debate to Authorize the Use of U.S. Forces Against Iraq, Pelosi said of Saddam Hussein: "Yes, he has chemical weapons, he has biological weapons, he is trying to get nuclear weapons."

But just recently, she said: "[T]here was never anything in the intelligence that said Iraq posed an imminent threat to the United States, never."

Meaningful progress is being made toward achieving safety and stability in Iraq.

➤ **Political:**

- Successful elections have been held, a constitution written, a unity government formed.

➤ **Military:**

- Terrorist leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has been killed; Saddam Hussein is behind bars; Al Qaeda has lost its safe haven in Afghanistan.

➤ **Self Security:**

- Since 2004, the number of trained and equipped Iraqi Security Forces have more than doubled to 265,000.
- Iraqis are coming forward with actionable tips of information against insurgents and terrorist activities. 99% of those tips provide actual intelligence.

➤ **Social:**

- More students are attending school now than ever before – 6 million today compared with 4 million two years ago.
- More than 800 schools have been constructed, rebuilt, or renovated in the last two years.
- Over 2000 students are expected to graduate Iraqi medical school this year.

➤ **Status of Women:**

- Two years ago, women held no political positions in Iraq. Today, women hold over 30% of the seats in the National Assembly and accounted for 25% of constitution-drafters.

➤ **Rule of Law:**

- Today over 800 Iraqi judges preside over cases, compared to just 175 two years ago.

House Republicans understand that the American people need more help lowering the cost of living, and are committed to improving access to quality and affordable health care.

- **Passed Medical Justice legislation** to reduce frivolous lawsuits and preserve patient access to quality health care.
- **Passed Association Health Plan legislation** to increase access to health care for uninsured working families by allowing small businesses to join together and offer affordable insurance at a lower cost.
- **Signed into law Patient Safety legislation** to reverse a frightening trend of medical errors that harm or kill at least 1.5 million Americans each year.
- **Signed into law a bill to reduce waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid**, while continuing to ensure beneficiaries have access to doctors by reforming payments to physicians.
- **Signed into law the Patient Navigator bill** to help families in underserved communities navigate the health system.
- **Passed a Children's Hospital Medical Education bill** to ensure children's hospitals can train pediatricians and specialists to take care of sick children.
- **Passed a Community Health Centers bill** to provide high quality care to the poor and medically underserved at community health centers across the U.S. while saving billions of taxpayer dollars by reducing the need for more expensive in-patient and emergency room care.
- **Secured record levels of funding for the National Institutes of Health** to continue and initiate promising medical research.
- **NIH funding has more than doubled in the last seven years.**

- While Democrats continue to recycle their HillaryCare talking points, more Americans have access to quality and affordable health care as a result of action taken by House Republicans.
- **Republicans successfully modernized the nation's public health system through the creation of the Medicare prescription drug program.**

Today, more than 38 million seniors across America have access to prescription drug coverage, helping to switch the focus of health care from reactive disease treatment to proactive disease prevention. America's seniors are saving an average of \$1,100 a year on their medications thanks to the benefit.

- **Republicans successfully implemented Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) to make health insurance more affordable and accessible, and give Americans an incentive to start planning ahead for their future medical costs.**

From 2005 to 2006, the number of HSAs tripled from 1 million to more than 3 million, and 40 percent of HSAs are bought by families with incomes less than \$50,000. More than 1/3 of those who bought HSAs on their own had previously been uninsured.

Democrats opposed this effort to provide millions of Americans with quality and affordable health insurance.

**The Choice is Clear:** House Republicans are the better prescription for improving health care in America.

House Republicans are committed to securing our homeland.

- **Signed into law Reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act.** A key tool in preventing another domestic terror attack, the Patriot Act has enabled the government to effectively deter and punish terrorist acts in the United States and around the world, and enhanced law enforcement investigatory missions.
- **Passed REAL ID Act.** A 9/11 Commission recommendation, the REAL ID Act federally standardizes the requirements for applying and issuing state identification cards. According to the 9/11 Commission, the 19 hijackers responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attacks carried between them 13 valid drivers' licenses and 21 state-issued ID cards.
- **Passed Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act** to secure operational control of our borders to stop terrorists from entering the country undetected and streamlines operations within the Department of Homeland Security border security agencies.
- **Passed FY07 Homeland Security Appropriations bill** with \$32 billion to fund border security, port security and increased cargo screening, and disaster preparedness based on the lessons of Hurricane Katrina.
- **Signed into law Homeland Security Act of 2002** to establish the Department of Homeland Security responsible for preventing domestic terrorist attacks, reducing the vulnerability of the Nation to terrorism, and assisting the recovery and response efforts in the event of a terrorist attack.

Since September 11th, Republicans have delivered approximately \$218 billion in federal funding for homeland security operations nationwide.

Democrat Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi claims that “Democrats have led the way to meet our urgent homeland security needs.”

But **Democrat actions speak louder than words.**

**“No” will not protect America:**

- 120 House Democrats voted against legislation to create the Department of Homeland Security.
- 156 House Democrats voted to oppose reauthorization of the Patriot Act.
- 152 House Democrats voted against the Real ID Act.
- 164 House Democrats voted against strengthening border security.

American lives have been saved by thwarting terrorist attacks through the coordinated efforts of our Homeland Security Department, Department of Defense, first responders, and vigilant citizens.

**The Choice is Clear:** While Democrats choose to ignore our vulnerabilities and do nothing, House Republicans are working to improve our disaster preparedness and response capabilities, strengthen border security, and protect our homeland from terror.

## 21 MEDICARE RX DRUG BENEFIT

House Republicans have delivered a voluntary prescription drug benefit to America's seniors for the first time in the history of the Medicare program.

### Key Facts About Medicare Part D

- Prior to enactment of Part D, millions of seniors had no prescription drug coverage. Today, more than **38 million seniors have coverage**.
- Seniors who enroll in Part D are **saving on average \$1,100**. Those with limited incomes are paying little or nothing for their medications.
- A special enrollment period allows **low-income seniors and those affected by Hurricane Katrina to enroll past the May 15th deadline penalty-free**. The Social Security Administration and grassroots groups are conducting outreach efforts to identify these seniors.
- Seniors with high drug costs who spend through the coverage gap will benefit from catastrophic coverage. **Medicare will pay for 95 percent of all drug costs after the gap**.
- **Competition is reducing costs** for seniors and taxpayers. Premiums were originally expected to be \$37 per month, but competition among the plans has reduced average premiums to just \$25 per month.
- As part of our shift in focus to prevention, every new Medicare beneficiary can receive a **free initial exam**. Medicare now covers screenings such as cholesterol, diabetes, and disease management programs.

Democrats can't stand the fact that Republicans are responsible for delivering a prescription drug benefit to America's seniors – who are happy with their coverage and saving money.

Their scare tactic of the month is the "doughnut hole."

## Here is the truth:

- **Every senior had the option of choosing a Medicare prescription drug plan without a coverage gap.** 2.4 million seniors chose a plan without a gap.
- **The vast majority of seniors will NOT be subject to the gap.** There is no gap for low-income seniors. Less than 8% of beneficiaries will be fully responsible for costs in the gap. Beneficiaries can delay the gap or avoid it by using generic drugs.
- **Seniors, even those in the gap, are better off now than they were before Part D.** Beneficiaries who face the gap will already have saved on average \$1,500 on their drug costs before they even enter the gap.
- **The Democrat's proposed prescription drug benefit, which did not have a coverage gap, was estimated to cost \$1 trillion.** Meanwhile, the expected cost to taxpayers for the Republican-enacted Part D benefit has decreased by \$180 billion from original estimates.

**The Choice is Clear:** While Democrats voted against giving seniors access to prescription drug coverage and want to take the benefit away, Republicans delivered.

## The Suburban Agenda

In 2006, Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) and other House Republicans introduced the Suburban Agenda, a set of legislative initiatives developed in response to concerns voiced by suburban families from across the United States. Members of the Suburban Caucus worked for six months to design an agenda for Congress to meet key priorities in education, health care, economic growth and conservation.

Over half of Americans live in the suburbs and some of the top issues on their mind include:

- **Health care:** Making health insurance fully portable and affordable
- **Education:** Preventing pedophiles from becoming teachers or school employees working around our children
- **Conservation:** Being responsible stewards for our local environment
- **Economic:** Long-term savings programs to help make the middleclass more attainable for suburban children
- **Internet Safety:** Protecting our kids from online sexual predators

## In the News....

*"For Republicans with a case of political hypertension, the Suburban Agenda may be as politically popular as a physician's house call, and just what the doctor ordered."*

*- Gary Andres, Washington Times*

The Suburban Agenda consists of a set of bills designed to reflect the concerns of Americans who live in the suburbs.

- **School Safety Acquiring Faculty Excellence Act** to allow school boards to screen criminal records of applicants for coach and teacher positions to make sure pedophiles or felons are not put in charge of classrooms. *House passed*
- **401 Kids Family Savings Accounts** to build on the success of 401(k) plans by establishing tax-deferred savings for kids from birth to pay for education or the purchase of a first home.
- **Health Information Technology Promotion Act** to accelerate the use of fully-electronic medical records to improve care and reduce errors.
- **Deleting Online Predators Act** to protect children from online predators, especially over 10 million American kids whose data appear on social networking sites.
- **Open Space and Farmland Preservation Act** to establish grant programs to protect more suburban green and open space.
- **Gang Elimination Act** to set federal policy to combat drug gangs now fighting suburban police departments.
- **Increasing Portability of Health Insurance** to extend COBRA health insurance rights so families are covered when parents change jobs.

This summer, House Republicans unveiled the American Values Agenda, a series of measures designed to defend American values and protect Americans' natural and constitutional rights.

### **American Values Agenda**

- **Pledge Protection Act:** Protects the Pledge of Allegiance from attacks by activist federal judges seeking to rule it unconstitutional. *House passed*
- **Freedom to Display the American Flag Act:** Ensures an individual has the right to display the U.S. flag on residential property. *House passed*
- **Internet Gambling Prohibition:** Closes loopholes that have allowed illegal Internet gambling to flourish. *House passed*
- **Marriage Amendment:** Constitutional amendment declaring marriage to be between a man and a woman. *House considered – failed to gain 2/3 majority needed for a Constitutional amendment*
- **The Public Expression of Religion Act:** Ensures local officials and communities do not face financial ruin to defend their rights to free speech under the Constitution. The bill provides that when state or local officials are sued over public expressions of religion, no monetary damages, costs, or attorney's fees may be awarded.
- **Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act:** Requires that those performing late-term abortions inform the woman seeking an abortion of the medical evidence that the unborn child feels pain.

- **Human Cloning Prohibition Act:** Bans human cloning and the importation of products derived from a cloned human embryo.
- **BATFE Reform:** Improves the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' process for dealing with violations of firearms law and the procedures for assessing penalties for those violations.
- **Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act:** Prohibits governments from using federal funds to confiscate guns from law-abiding citizens during emergencies.
- **Permanent Tax Relief for Families:** Supports the child tax credit, marriage penalty relief, tax incentives for adoption, and other priorities for American citizens.

The Values Agenda seeks to protect American families, defend American values, and safeguard the freedoms guaranteed to Americans in the Constitution.

*"The American Values Agenda will defend America's founding principles."*

*- Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL)*

*"The American Values Agenda is a collection of legislative initiatives that speak to the values many American citizens hold dear."*

*- Majority Leader John Boehner (R-OH)*

House Republicans are committed to supporting our nation's veterans.

- **Passed Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007.** Provides a historic \$25 billion for Veterans Medical Services; \$4 billion for housing for our service members and their families; and increases funding for defense health programs.
- **Signed into law the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act.** Honors our bravest troops by prohibiting a person from carrying out a demonstration within 500 ft. of a cemetery where a funeral or memorial service is to be held for a fallen soldier.
- **Signed into law the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act.** Improves and extends housing interest rates, insurance coverage, outreach awareness, and benefit and employment programs for veterans, most notably for our homeless veterans.
- **Passed Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act.** Increases the rates of veterans' disability compensation-- which includes compensation for surviving veterans' spouses and children.
- **Passed Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization Act.** Provides a 2.7 percent across-the-board military pay raise. Prohibits the VA from increasing TRICARE fees. Provides free mailing of letters and ground parcels for those who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- **Signed into law the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP)** to make Reserve and National Guard veterans who were activated after 9/11/01 eligible for education benefits.

While Democrats talk about increasing funding for veterans, their record shows otherwise.

From 1965 to 1995 when the Democrats controlled the House, total spending for veterans in constant dollars only grew at an average of less than 2 percent.

**It is Republicans who have led the charge to increase our nation's commitment to America's veterans.**

- **Veterans' budget has increased \$30 billion in 6 years.** The total VA budget increased from \$48 billion in FY 2001 to approximately \$78 billion in FY 2006, a 62 percent increase in five years.
- **For FY07, Republicans passed one of the biggest increases in discretionary spending for the VA, more than any other agency.** The VA budget will rise to \$80 billion, including \$42 billion for entitlements.
- **Republicans have consistently protected the VA budget** from across-the-board 1% deductions in discretionary spending.
- **Republicans enacted concurrent receipt legislation** to fix a problem that kept veterans from receiving both disability and retirement benefits at the same time.
- **Republicans have enhanced the quality of veterans' health care:** the VA leads the health care industry in computerized records, patient safety, and high quality standards.

**The Choice is Clear:** While Democrats talk, actions speak louder than words. House Republicans have a proven record of taking action to support America's veterans.

On August 1, 1996, 12 million welfare recipients received money from American taxpayers in exchange for nothing. *No requirements, no questions, no strings, no work.*

That same day, House Republicans passed historic legislation that made the American dream a reality for millions of families who had found themselves trapped in a cycle of poverty.

Opponents roared that the plan would drive poor families into the streets. That day, the *New York Times* wrote, "This is not reform, it is punishment."

Despite 2 vetoes, then-President Clinton – after much Republican pressure – finally signed the measure into law.

### **-Ten Years Later-**

The predictions of doom and gloom have transformed into a bright future for American children and families.

Since 1996, welfare caseloads have fallen below 5 million. Children have been lifted out of poverty.

Even the *New York Times* agrees, "Welfare reform has been an obvious success."

House Republicans further strengthened the Welfare program in 2006 as part of the Deficit Reduction Act, which increased work requirements while continuing to provide important supportative services like child care and eliminated duplicative programs.

Back in 1996, Democrats cried out that Welfare Reform was a mistake that would hurt families. They were wrong. Families are better off today than they were a decade ago:

**Dramatic Reductions in Welfare Dependence.** Welfare caseloads are down by 64% - nearly 8 million parents and children no longer receive welfare.

**Fewer Families in Poverty.** The overall poverty rate dropped 7%. Poverty among children of single mothers dropped 15%.

**Remarkable Increases in Work and Earnings.** The number of adults on welfare who work has more than doubled since welfare reform. Work among never-married mothers surged 34%.

**Declines in Waste, Fraud, and Abuse of Welfare Benefits.** The 1996 reforms prevented prisoners and fugitives from collecting welfare benefits, ended checks for those who claimed drug addiction and alcoholism as a "disability," and barred non-citizens from collecting welfare benefits they pledged to avoid as a condition of entry.

*August marks the 10th anniversary of the enactment of the 1996 law. The House passed a resolution commemorating the anniversary.*

**The Choice is Clear:** Democrats stood in the way of Welfare Reform, while Republicans led millions of American families to a better life.





HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

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