

Working Families Report Card:

*Grading the Republican House on
Job Creation and Job Quality*



AUGUST 2012

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GRADING THE REPUBLICAN HOUSE ON JOB CREATION AND JOB QUALITY

AUGUST 2012

SUMMARY

SUBJECT	GRADE	NOTES
Job Creation and Keeping American Jobs from Being Sent Overseas	F	<i>The House Republican majority has harmed the recovery by blocking various efforts to create jobs and heightened economic uncertainty through their debt ceiling brinksmanship.</i>
Protecting Workers' Paychecks	F	<i>The House Republican majority repeatedly voted to cut workers' pay and blocked new tools to ensure equal pay for equal work.</i>
Protecting Workers' Rights	F	<i>The House Republican majority has attacked agencies charged with enforcing workers' rights and voted to gut workers' rights in the law.</i>
Protecting Workers' Health Care and Retirement Security	F	<i>The House Republican majority has repeatedly voted to end Medicare as we know it and take away key patient protections for the middle class by putting big insurance companies back in charge of families' health care.</i>

SUBJECT: JOB CREATION

GRADE: FAIL

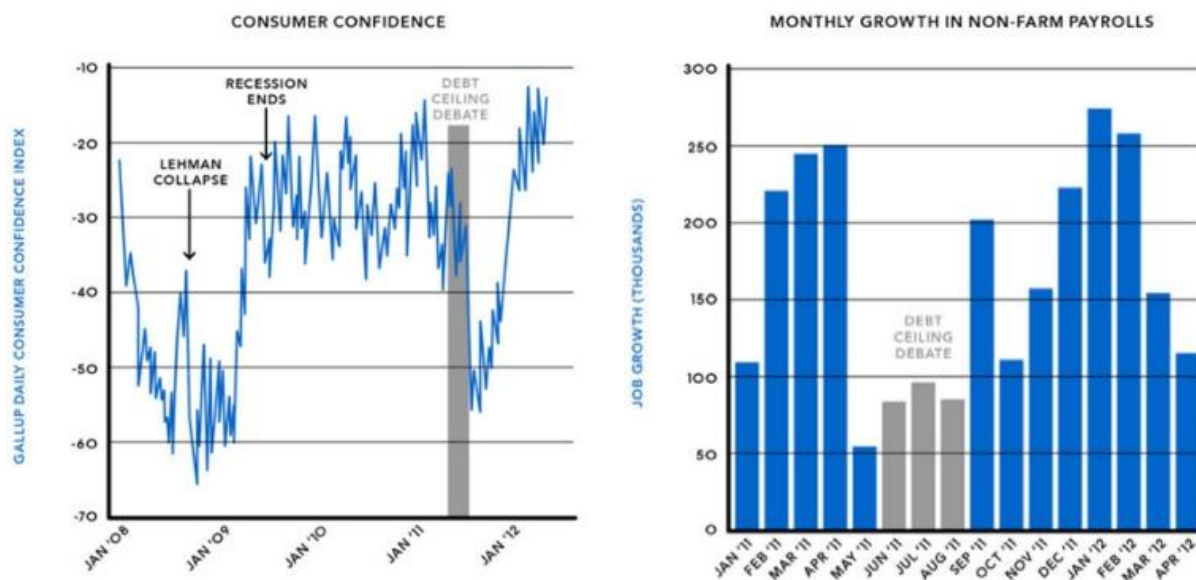
THREATENING TO DEFAULT HARMED JOB CREATION

If the first rule of dealing with a fragile economic recovery is “do no harm,” then the House failed that rule in spades last summer. When the Congress votes to raise the debt ceiling, it is agreeing to honor bills already approved by Congress. To not raise the debt ceiling means to default on those debts, an unthinkable event with far-reaching economic consequences. Threatening to default, however, became a bargaining chip for House Republicans in the summer of 2011. As one House Republican put it: “We weren’t kidding around, either... We would have taken it down.”¹ Here is what that brinksmanship wrought:

- Consumer confidence plummeted, seeing the single largest monthly decline since the financial crisis.
- America’s debt rating was cut for the first time in the country’s history because of the political brinksmanship.
- GDP growth slowed dramatically to about half of what it was in the year leading up to the debt limit standoff.
- Job creation stumbled after a strong start in the beginning of the year.

*“All told, the data tell us that a debt-ceiling standoff is an act of economic sabotage.”
- Betsey Stevenson & Justin Wolfers, Bloomberg*

Economic Impact of GOP Debt Ceiling Brinksmanship



Source: [Think Progress](#)

¹ http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/origins-of-the-debt-showdown/2011/08/03/gIQA9uqIzI_story_4.html

COMMITTEE REJECTED JOB CREATION PROPOSALS

The Education and the Workforce Committee has wide-ranging jurisdiction over matters like directly saving or creating jobs while improving long-term outcomes for young Americans. This could mean increasing teacher jobs, school construction, and summer employment for youth. Early in the year, the committee heard from a bipartisan panel of governors who urged Congress to “find common ground solutions”² to help create jobs. In the ensuing months, efforts were made in committee to move job creation proposals. These included:

- Infrastructure projects like repairing and modernizing schools and community colleges with amendments (more than 300,000 construction jobs)³
- Funding for summer and year-round jobs for teenagers and young adults (nearly 435,000 jobs)⁴
- Funding to stem the layoff of schoolteachers and bring those already laid off back to work (up to 280,000 jobs)⁵
- Proposals to press the committee to discourage the outsourcing of jobs to foreign countries.⁶

Unfortunately, all of these amendments were rejected by the committee’s Republican majority on a party-line basis.

COMMITTEE REPUBLICANS MOVED BILL TO WEAKEN WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AND JOB TRAINING SYSTEM

Workforce investment programs can be vital tools for helping Americans attain the skills and education they need to find good-paying jobs and join the middle class. Despite the improved economy, approximately 13 million Americans remain unemployed, 40 percent for six months or more. At the same time, many employers in health care, advanced manufacturing, and other high-growth sectors report that they cannot find the skilled workers needed to fill up to 3.5 million current job openings across the country.

With its bipartisan history, reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act presented a key opportunity to work together on “common ground solutions.” Instead, the committee’s majority moved a partisan bill that walks away from the duty to help create and sustain a highly-skilled workforce, especially for the most disadvantaged workers. By merging funds and locking out key stakeholders, the bill allows taxpayer dollars to be siphoned away from those with the greatest need and toward those with the greatest political influence.

² <http://democrats.edworkforce.house.gov/press-release/bipartisan-panel-governors-send-message-house-gop-move-forward-jobs-not-political>

³ Vote on [the Miller amendment](#) to H.R. 4297, 15-23.

⁴ Vote on [the Scott amendment](#) to H.R. 4297 15-23.

⁵ Vote on the [Rep. Davis amendment](#) to the 3rd Quarter of the 112th Congress Activities Report, 16-22.

⁶ Vote on the [Rep. Bishop amendment](#) to the 3rd Quarter of the 112th Congress Activities Report, 16-22.

A Democratic alternative ([H.R. 4227](#)) would streamline access to and better align existing programs, introduce meaningful accountability measures so taxpayers and those who use the workforce investment system know what is working and what is not, and promote innovation and best practices, providing communities with more effective tools when responding to local economic challenges.

HOUSE MAJORITY BLOCKED DOZENS OF EFFORTS TO SUPPORT JOBS IN THE UNITED STATES

In the 112th Congress, the House floor was not kind to efforts to support job opportunities for American workers. For example:

- Efforts to prioritize American jobs and discourage outsourcing were defeated at least 18 times on the House floor. (*See Appendix A*)
- Efforts to crack down on currency manipulation by China and other foreign countries were defeated at least 3 times on the House floor. (*See Appendix B*)
- Efforts to increase domestic American manufacturing or simply protect job and training opportunities for returning veterans were defeated repeatedly on the House floor. (*See Appendix C*)

HOUSE BILLS THAT WOULD CUT JOBS

In addition to blocking efforts to create jobs, the House passed numerous bills that were slated to cut jobs – up to 2 million of them by the first nine months alone of the 112th Congress. The details on these bills are provided in the [August 2011 Working Families Report Card](#).

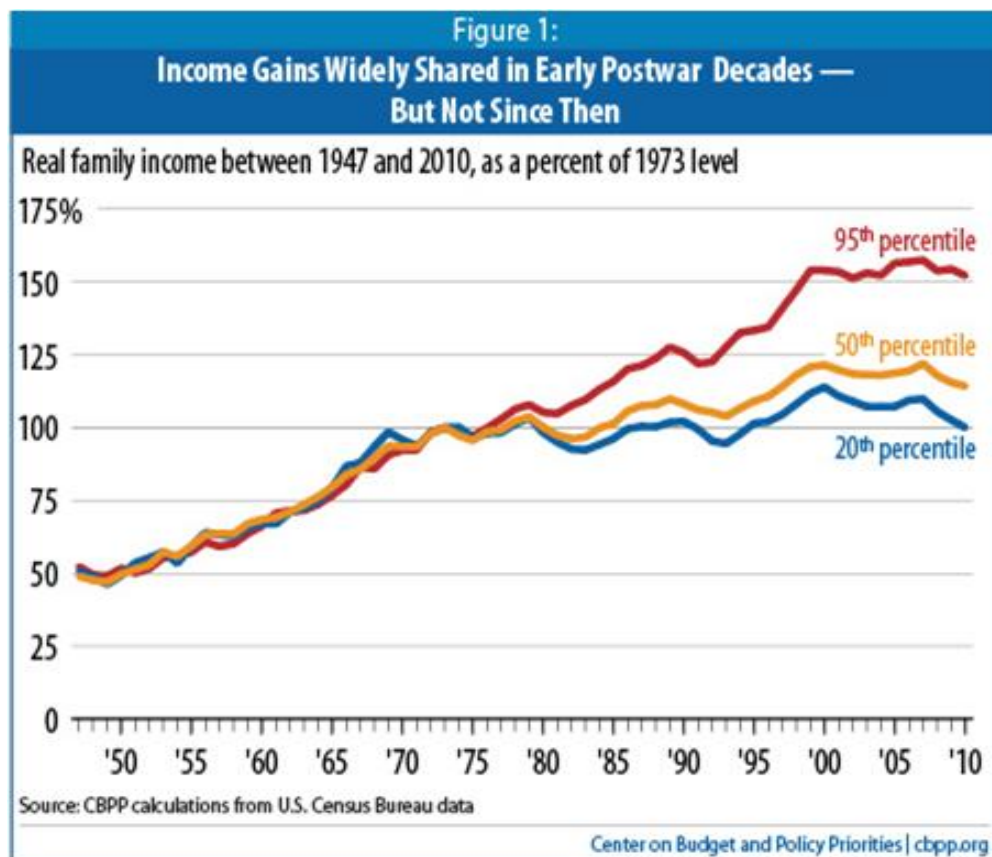
SUBJECT: PROTECTING WORKERS' PAYCHECKS

GRADE: **FAIL**

SHARED PROSPERITY IS KEY TO SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH

For decades, American workers have seen their real pay stagnate even as their productivity rose, due in part to an unrelenting assault on the rights of workers to bargain for a better deal. Declining pay is a drag on job creation. Less pay means less purchasing power. Less purchasing power means less demand. Less demand means less economic growth and fewer jobs.

Rather than promoting policies that will increase Americans' paychecks, the House majority has tried to repeal laws that ensure workers a decent wage, suggested higher unemployment and lower wages will create jobs, and blocked efforts to ensure that women get equal pay for equal work.



Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

HOUSE MAJORITY DEFEATED EFFORTS TO ENSURE WOMEN GET EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

Although the wage gap between men and women has narrowed since the passage of the landmark Equal Pay Act in 1963, gender-based wage discrimination remains a problem for women. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, women only make 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man. The Institute of Women's Policy Research found that this wage disparity will cost women anywhere from \$400,000 to \$2 million over a lifetime in lost wages.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would strengthen the Equal Pay Act and close loopholes that have allowed employers to avoid responsibility for discriminatory pay. It would give workers stronger tools to combat wage discrimination, bar retaliation against workers for discussing salary information, and ensure full compensation for victims of gender-based pay discrimination. However, House Republicans voted to block debate and consideration of this important bill.⁷

EIGHT ATTEMPTS TO CUT CONSTRUCTION WORKER WAGES

The Davis-Bacon Act has long ensured that when the federal government builds public works and other buildings, it pays construction workers a prevailing wage in order to not drive down wages in any local market. In addition to ensuring fair pay for construction workers, Davis-Bacon ensures quality, on-time work for taxpayer investments.

There have been eight attempts on the House floor in the 112th Congress to eliminate these prevailing wage requirements. Each of these Republican-sponsored attempts has failed. House Democrats have overwhelmingly provided the votes to defeat these rollbacks in construction workers' wages. (See *Appendix D* for list of votes)

OTHER ASSAULTS ON CONSTRUCTION WORKER WAGES

The House floor has seen several attempts to prohibit federal agencies from considering "project labor agreements" on major construction projects. These agreements have been used by some of the nation's top corporations to ensure fair wages, local hiring, workforce development, and high quality, on-time work.

House Republicans have led efforts to prohibit the use of these same agreements by the federal government. In most instances, House Democrats were joined by a small number of Republicans to successfully stop restrictions on project labor agreements. (See *Appendix E*)

⁷ Effort to proceed to consider the Paycheck Fairness Act blocked by a [233-180 vote](#), 5/31/2012

GOP JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE REPORT SAYS AMERICA'S FAMILIES NEED HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT AND SMALLER PAYCHECKS⁸

A March 2011 report by the Republican staff of the Joint Economic Committee argued that the key to job creation was more layoffs and therefore smaller paychecks for all families. The report said, "A smaller government workforce increases the available supply of educated, skilled workers for private firms, thus lowering labor costs." In other words, by throwing public sector workers into the unemployment line, numerous job-cutting bills passed by the House presumably aimed to reduce all workers' wages and salaries, in both the public and private sectors.

WAGE THEFT AND LOW WAGE ISSUES HAVE GONE UNADDRESSED

In previous Congresses, improved enforcement of wage and hour laws were a central oversight concern. This focus stemmed from concern over the prevalence of wage theft. In 2009, a study found that more than a quarter of low-wage workers in three cities had been paid less than what the law required.⁹ It is estimated that tens of thousands of employers have misclassified their workers as non-employees, denying those employees the full array of employment rights to which they are entitled, including the right to minimum wage and overtime. Wage theft hurts families, the economy, and the taxpayer. No Education and Workforce Committee hearings or markups were dedicated to addressing these wage theft and misclassification issues in the 112th Congress.

It has been three years since minimum wage workers last received a raise. Consequently, the real value of the minimum wage has declined. It now buys less than it did in 1956. The vast majority of low-wage workers are over the age of 20. They are mostly women. Most are working full-time. In the wake of the last recession, these workers are older and better educated than ever. [They deserve a raise](#). Yet the only hearing held on low wage issues in the House in the 112th Congress thus far was one questioning the U.S. Department of Labor's efforts to extend existing minimum wage protections to low-wage home health care workers.¹⁰

⁸ <http://democrats.edworkforce.house.gov/blog/2011/04/gop-report-americas-families-n.shtml>

⁹ <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/02/us/02wage.html>

¹⁰ <http://democrats.edworkforce.house.gov/press-release/rep-lynn-woolsey-d-ca-opening-statement-hearing-overtime-and-minimum-wage-protections>

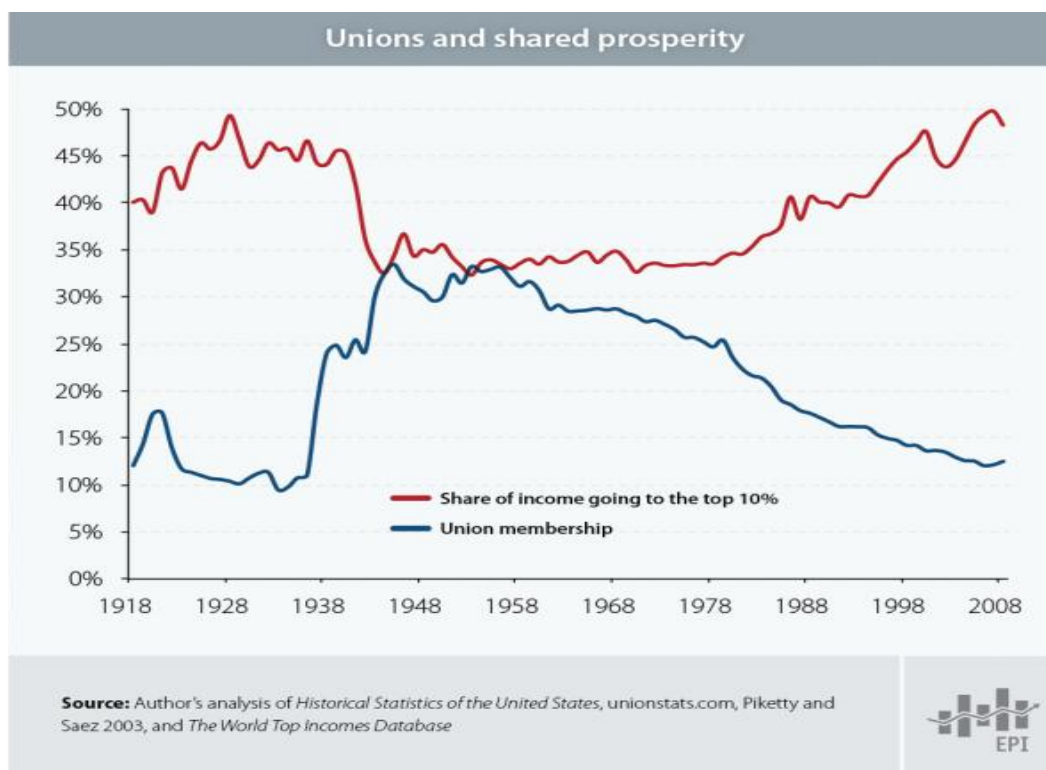
SUBJECT: PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS

GRADE: **FAIL**

THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE: CRITICAL TO MIDDLE CLASS GROWTH BUT UNDER ASSAULT IN THE 112TH

By exercising their rights to organize and collectively bargain, American workers helped build a strong middle class, the backbone of the U.S. economy. Union workers earn higher wages and have greater access to benefits like health care coverage and pensions than do their non-union counterparts. Yet all workers have benefited from the gains achieved by unions, ranging from the minimum wage, the 40-hour work week, and health and safety laws.

Although the right to organize has been under assault for decades, the 112th Congress saw an assault waged with unprecedented ferocity, mirroring similar anti-union campaigns across several states. The small federal agency tasked with enforcing workers' rights was threatened with closure. Congressional oversight requests threatened to interfere with the agency's ongoing enforcement cases, while legitimate oversight concerns about improper activities of Republican appointees were not the subject of any hearings. Bills pushed through the House threatened to gut workers' right to organize and make it easier to outsource American jobs.



Source: Economic Policy Institute

HOUSE ATTEMPTED TO SHUT DOWN THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is a relatively small, independent federal agency charged with enforcing the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) for both employees and employers. For example, when a worker is unlawfully fired for trying to organize a union, it is the NLRB's job to investigate the firing and, if warranted, pursue a complaint against the employer and have the worker reinstated to her job.

The House's first government funding bill in 2011 cut \$50 million from the NLRB's budget. This cut would have forced the NLRB to furlough all staffers for half of the remainder of the year. But the assault did not stop there. A majority of House Republicans also voted to defund the NLRB completely. In other words, had the amendment been adopted into law, the NLRB would have been closed for business. A worker unlawfully fired for exercising her rights would have nowhere to turn to win her job back.

HOUSE MOVED TO GUT WORKERS' RIGHTS UNDER THE NLRA

The NLRA guarantees private sector workers the right to organize and collectively bargain. Employers may not retaliate against workers for exercising those rights.

Over the years, anti-union employers have attempted to stamp out organizing drives by eliminating the work of employees trying to form a union or to bust existing unions by outsourcing or subcontracting workers' jobs. The NLRB remedies these violations by ordering the employer to restore the outsourced work and reinstate the laid off workers.

Under a House-passed and Republican-sponsored [Job Outsourcers Bill of Rights](#), H.R. 2587, the NLRB would no longer have the authority to order an employer to restore work that was unlawfully outsourced. While it still would be unlawful for an employer to retaliate against an organizing drive by shipping jobs to Mexico or China, under this bill, no one could do anything to bring those jobs back. For example, in 2000, the NLRB ordered an employer to bring equipment and jobs back from Mexico after it closed a portion of its California plant and moved the jobs to Tijuana after the U.S. workers successfully organized a union. Under the Republican bill, this order to bring work back to the U.S. would no longer be available. H.R. 2587 simultaneously eliminates a critical remedy for workers' rights violations and makes it easier than ever to ship jobs overseas.

Another House-passed and Republican-sponsored bill, dubbed [the Election Prevention Act](#), would frustrate workers' attempts to hold an election for union representation. H.R. 3094 would mandate arbitrary delays in any worker request for a union election and provide new opportunities for unscrupulous employers to file frivolous litigation designed to stall and ultimately prevent elections.

WHEN ACTUAL NLRB SCANDAL CAME TO LIGHT, NO HEARINGS WERE SCHEDULED.

The NLRB's Inspector General [uncovered a number of instances](#) where Board Member Terence Flynn (R), while serving as chief counsel to Board Member Robert Hayes (R), forwarded sensitive and nonpublic information to former Board Chairman Peter Schaumber (R), who has served as a labor policy advisor for the Romney presidential campaign. These leaks included a draft of an NLRB decision, draft dissenting opinions prior to public release, and other deliberative and non-public information on the NLRB's internal operations. The Inspector General concluded that these disclosures "evidence a serious threat to the Board's decisional due process." [Board Member Flynn later resigned](#). Despite [calls to hold hearings](#) into what was the most corrosive scandal in the Board's history, no hearings were scheduled.

WORKERS' RIGHT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY ON THE JOB THREATENED.

Workers' right to health and safety on the job has also been at risk in the 112th Congress. An appropriations bill (H.R. 1) pushed by House Republicans aimed to cut the budget for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration by nearly 20 percent – potentially crippling OSHA's enforcement program by forcing layoffs of its whistleblower investigators, slashing funding for state OSHA plans, and even forcing OSHA to shut down its web site. These cuts would have driven OSHA to 1974 staffing levels, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

Despite repeated requests from the Obama administration and House Democrats to plug the loopholes in the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 that had been laid bare following the Upper Big Branch mine explosion in April 2010, Republicans have thus far failed to move legislative mine safety reforms needed to protect miners from irresponsible mine operators like Massey Energy.¹¹

[House Republicans blocked](#) an effort to restore health and safety protections for workers at our nation's nuclear weapons facilities. The Republican Defense Authorization bill weakens numerous safety protections that government contractors must follow today. Republicans blocked consideration of an amendment that would have restored these important protections for both workers and residents who live near these facilities.

In the summer of 2012, House Republicans passed [H.R. 4078](#). If enacted, this bill would stymie the ability of government agencies to protect American workers and jobs. Committee Democrats offered a number of amendments to save pending worker protections, including efforts to prevent black lung disease, combustible dust explosions, and electrocutions. The amendment on black lung was not permitted a floor vote. The combustible dust and electrocution amendments were defeated largely along party lines.¹²

¹¹ [Miller amendment](#) to the 3rd Quarter of the 112th Congress Activities Report. Rejected 16-22

¹² <http://democrats.edworkforce.house.gov/blog/house-gop-votes-put-special-interests-above-protecting-american-workers-and-jobs>

SUBJECT: PROTECTING WORKERS' HEALTH CARE AND RETIREMENT SECURITY

GRADE: FAIL

AMERICANS' HEALTH CARE UNDER THREAT

Access to quality health care and a decent retirement plan is a cornerstone of the American middle class. Programs like Medicare and Social Security have simultaneously lifted seniors out of poverty and made our nation healthier. And new patient rights and protections contained in the Affordable Care Act are already starting to put families and their doctors, not insurance company bureaucrats, in charge of their health care.

However, the new House majority has passed dozens of measures that would not only take away patient protections, but end Medicare and harm Americans' retirement security in the process.



Source: [Democratic Leader](#)

THE PLAN TO END THE MEDICARE GUARANTEE

The House Republicans' budget proposals over the last two years would end Medicare as we know it and shift thousands of dollars of costs onto seniors. One Republican effort would force seniors to find private insurance using a voucher for all Americans under age 55. Since the voucher's value relative to health costs would decrease over time, seniors would face much higher out-of-pocket health costs. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), this GOP plan would raise seniors' health costs by more than \$6,000.¹³

A similar plan by House Republicans proposed in January 2012 would damage the Medicare program, by increasing costs to seniors and, as AARP put it, "removing Medicare's promise of secure health coverage."¹⁴

REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO REPEAL PATIENTS' HEALTH CARE RIGHTS

One of the first orders of business of the 112th Congress was to eliminate new health care rights and benefits that are helping people today – rights that will be important to families, seniors and businesses across the country for years to come. Repeal of the Affordable Care Act would put insurance companies back in charge of health care and increase the deficit.¹⁵

Not stopping there, House Republicans proceeded to make more than 30 attempts at taking away working families' patient protections while keeping their own government-provided health benefits. Even after the Supreme Court ruled that the Affordable Care Act was constitutional and polls showed that the American people preferred that Congress move on to deal with jobs and the economy, House Republicans spent nearly a week of session in summer 2012 refighting the health care debate in one more attempt at repeal.¹⁶

¹³ H. Con. Res. 34, [passed 235-193](#), April 15, 2011

¹⁴ H. Con. Res. 112, passed 228-184, April 17, 2012

¹⁵ H.R. 2, [passed 245-189](#), January 19, 2011

¹⁶ H.R. 6079, [passed 244-185](#), July 11, 2012

Appendix A

Votes against prioritizing American jobs and discouraging outsourcing:

January 25, 2011 – House Majority voted against ending government contracts to corporations that ship American jobs overseas. (Debate on H RES 38; failed on a [record vote](#), 184-242)

September 8, 2011 – House Majority voted to block consideration of an amendment that would have given priority to companies that use materials made in America for the construction and renovation of school facilities. (Debate on H RES 392; blocked by [recorded vote](#): 226-176)

September 15, 2011 – House Majority voted against an effort to place a priority on keeping jobs in America by protecting the authority of the National Labor Relations Board to order an employer to maintain or restore jobs in the U.S. that would be otherwise outsourced to a foreign country. (Debate on H.R. 2587; failed by [recorded vote](#): 189-235)

October 14, 2011 – House Majority blocked consideration of an effort to ensure that American materials are used in the construction of new or existing structures for coal ash storage. (Debate on H RES 431; blocked by a [recorded vote](#): 237-166)

November 4, 2011 – House Majority blocked consideration of an amendment to prohibit the Coast Guard from purchasing textiles or apparel that are not grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States. (Debate on H RES 455; blocked by a [recorded vote](#): 234-177)

November 30, 2011 – House Majority voted against an effort that, among other things, would have discouraged the outsourcing of American jobs. (Debate on H.R. 3094; failed on a [recorded vote](#): 185-239)

March 7, 2012 – House Majority voted against an effort to require that all materials used to install conduit hydropower generation to be manufactured in the United States. (Debate on H.R. 2842; failed by [recorded vote](#): 182-237)

March 8, 2012 – House Majority voted against an amendment that would require publically-traded companies to annually disclose the number of employees they have in each country. (Debate on H.R. 3606; failed by a [recorded vote](#): 175-239)

April 18, 2012 – House Majority voted against an effort to prohibit the use of Highway Trust Fund revenues from being used for the construction of highways in foreign countries and rescinded over \$12 million in funds available for a road in Canada. (Debate on H.R. 4348; failed by [recorded vote](#): 176-242)

April 19, 2012 – House Majority voted against an effort to prevent a tax deduction from allowing companies that ship American jobs overseas. (Debate on H.R. 9; failed by [recorded vote](#): 179-229)

May 18, 2012 – House Majority voted against an effort to protect American jobs by requiring that naval and U.S. flagged vessels providing service to the federal government may not be overhauled, repaired, or maintained in a shipyard outside the U.S. (Debate on H.R. 4310; failed by [recorded vote](#): 182-236)

May 31, 2012 – House Majority voted against an effort to require work performed under intelligence contracts is first provided to U.S. companies and workers, and not outsourced to foreign-owned companies. (Debate on H.R. 5743; failed by [recorded vote](#): 180-235)

June 6, 2012 – House Majority rejected a measure to help close overseas tax havens by giving the Treasury Department greater powers to investigate offshore tax abuses and crack down on offenders and banks that aid them, which could reduce the deficit by as much as nearly \$1 billion. (Debate on H.R. 4348; rejected on a [recorded vote](#): 192-226)

June 7, 2012 – House Majority voted against an effort to prohibit manufacturers, producers, and importers of medical devices from benefiting from the underlying bill's repeal of the medical device tax if they outsource American jobs. (Debate on H.R. 436; failed by [recorded vote](#): 179-239)

June 19, 2012 – House Majority voted to block consideration of a bill to make employers that relocate a call center overseas ineligible for federal grants or guaranteed loans. (Debate on H RES 688; blocked on a [recorded vote](#): 238-178)

June 19, 2012 – House Majority voted against an effort that would require that all items offered for sale in National Parks gift shops or visitor centers be made in America. (Debate on H.R. 2578; failed by [recorded vote](#): 188-234)

June 21, 2012 – House Majority voted against an effort to require that all materials used to drill new leases issued under this bill be made in America, and that lease holders make efforts to reduce outsourcing of jobs. (Debate on H.R. 4480; failed by [recorded vote](#): 166-243)

July 10, 2012 – House Majority vote against considering President Obama's proposal to reward companies that choose to invest or bring back jobs to America with a 20 percent tax credit, and eliminates tax advantages for companies moving jobs overseas. (Debate on H RES 724; blocked by a [record vote](#): 238-184)

Appendix B

Votes to crack down on currency manipulation by China and other foreign countries:

October 12, 2011 – House Majority voted against an effort to promote job creation by cracking down on currency manipulation by foreign countries, including China. (Debate on H.R. 3078; failed by [recorded vote](#): 192-236)

November 3, 2011 – House Majority again blocked consideration of a bill effort to promote job creation by cracking down on currency manipulation by foreign countries, including China. (Debate on H RES 453; blocked by a [recorded vote](#): 241-184)

November 17, 2011 – House Majority again blocked consideration of a bill effort to promote job creation by cracking down on currency manipulation by foreign countries, including China. (Debate on H RES 466; blocked by a [recorded vote](#): 243-173)

Appendix C

Building a 21st century economy and increasing American manufacturing:

September 22, 2011 – House Majority blocked consideration of the [National Manufacturing Strategy Act](#) that would have helped manufacturers compete, invest in innovation, and put Americans back to work. It passed the House in 2010 with overwhelming bipartisan support. (Debate on H RES 409; blocked by a [recorded vote](#): 240-180)

September 21, 2011 – House Majority voted to blocking consideration of an amendment that would have protected at least 10,000 American manufacturing jobs and provided disaster relief to families and business owners. (Debate on H RES 405; agreed to by [recorded vote](#): 237-188)

December 1, 2011 – House Majority voted against an effort to protect incentives for small businesses to hire returning veterans from being swept away by Republican deregulatory efforts. (Debate on H.R. 527; failed by [recorded vote](#): 188-233)

February 3, 2012 – House Majority voted against an effort to make job-creating investments, protect the freezing of Pell Grants and education programs for students, provide job benefits for veterans and job training for all Americans and life-saving health research. (Debate on H.R. 3578 failed by [recorded vote](#): 177-238)

Appendix D

House efforts to eliminate prevailing wage requirements:

February 19, 2011 – Amendment to H.R. 1, to strip prevailing wage protections, failed [189-233](#).

June 13, 2011 – Amendment to H.R. 2055, to strip prevailing wage protections from military construction projects, [failed 178-232](#).

April 11, 2011 – Amendment to H.R. 658, to strip prevailing wage protections from FAA construction projects, [failed 183-238](#).

June 2, 2011 – Amendment to H.R. 2017, to strip prevailing wage protections from Homeland Security Department projects, [failed 183-234](#).

July 26, 2011 – Amendment to H.R. 2354, to strip prevailing wage protections from contracts in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill, [failed 183-238](#).

May 31, 2012 – Amendment to H.R. 5854, to strip prevailing wage protections from military construction and veterans affairs projects, [failed 180-237](#).

June 6, 2012 – Amendment to H.R. 5325, to strip prevailing wage protections from Energy and Water Development projects, [failed 184-235](#).

July 18, 2012 – An amendment to H.R. 5856 would have prevented the use of prevailing wage requirements for Department of Defense programs [failed 182-235](#).

Appendix E

Other assaults on private-sector construction worker wages:

February 19, 2011 – Amendment to H.R. 1, to prohibit the use of funds supporting a government contract that requires a project labor agreement, [failed 210-210](#).

June 2, 2011 – Amendment to H.R. 2017, to prevent the Department of Homeland Security from implementing an executive order encouraging the use of project labor agreements on large-scale construction projects, [failed 207-213](#).

June 13, 2011 – Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill, H.R. 2055, contained language restricting the use of project labor agreements. An amendment on the floor successfully removed the restriction in a close [204-203 vote](#).

May 17, 2012 – Amendment to H.R. 4310, to prevent the Department of Defense from using project labor agreements, was adopted [211-209](#).

May 31, 2012 – An amendment to H.R. 5854 successfully stripped language that would have prevented military and veterans affairs projects from using project labor agreements on a [218-198 vote](#).