

August 17, 2012

***** DNC Romney Economics: The Middle-Class Under the Bus Tour*****

Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan Would Throw the Middle Class Under the Bus

This past week, the DNC embarked on the "Romney Economics: The Middle Class Under the Bus" Tour II kicking off in Alexandria, Richmond, and Norfolk, Virginia and visited all of the states on Romney's bus tour. The bus tour highlighted Governor Romney's plan to raise taxes on middle class families to pay for massive tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and his failed record as Governor of Massachusetts.

The bus tour also was there to tell the truth about Romney's vice presidential pick, Congressman Paul Ryan. Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan believe in a top-down economy, the same formula that crashed our economy and devastated the middle class. This tried and failed economic scheme is familiar and troubling: cuts to education and other critical investments, ending Medicare as we know it and asking middle class families to pay more to pay for more tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires. DNC Communications Director Brad Woodhouse, Former Virginia Representative Tom Perriello, Massachusetts Representatives David Linsky and Kathi-Anne Reinstein kicked off the tour with press conferences in Virginia.

DNC Communications Director Brad Woodhouse said:

"Whether it's his time as a corporate buyout specialist or as Governor of Massachusetts, Romney has demonstrated time and time again that he believes in two sets of rules - one set of rules for those at the very top, and another for everybody else. His policies reflect these values, and they would leave the hardworking folks of Virginia behind."

Former Virginia Representative Tom Perriello stated:

"Romney can take a bus tour through Virginia, but it isn't going to change the fact that his plans are the worst thing for Virginia's middle-class families. Just look at what we found out last week from nonpartisan tax experts--a recent report from non-partisan experts at the Tax Policy Center found that in order to pay for Mitt Romney's budget-busting \$5 trillion tax cuts that benefit millionaires and billionaires, he'd have to raise taxes on the average middle-class family with children by \$2,000."

Massachusetts Representative David Linsky said:

"But Mitt Romney broke each and every one of those promises. By the time Romney left office, Massachusetts ranked first in debt per person, and during his term the state dropped to 47th out of 50 in job creation, manufacturing jobs were lost at twice the national rate, and the median household income fell. That's not a record to be proud of."

Massachusetts Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein said:

"Mitt Romney doesn't like to talk about his time as Governor of Massachusetts, and there's plenty of good reason for that. He claims he's a businessman who will turn the economy around, but if the business experience he brought to Massachusetts is what he's going to bring to the Oval Office, then Virginia's small businesses are in trouble."

Charlotte mayor, Mayor Foxx was on hand when the bus toured North Carolina. He said:

"[T]he voters of North Carolina face a fundamental choice this election between two very different visions for our country. We can choose to move forward with President Obama's vision for the country where the economy grows from the middle out and we make the critical investments that will catapult us forward and improve middle-class security. Or Mitt Romney's vision: let Wall Street write its own rules again, and hand out trillions of dollars in tax cuts weighted to the wealthiest in this country while you ask hardworking, middle-class families and small business owners to foot the bill. These are the same policies that got us into the mess in the first place."

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz joined the bus tour in Florida. In Miami, Chair Wasserman Schultz said:

"And here's one thing we don't expect Mitt Romney to talk about today. Romney likes to tout his private sector experience as his chief qualification to be President, but it is clear that his priorities were to maximize profits, no matter the cost to the average American worker. Just talk to the hardworking Floridians who were laid off from Dade Behring - a company that was bought up by Mitt Romney's Bain Capital. They loaded the company with debt and closed two Miami facilities, laying off 850 workers. And where did some of those jobs go? Shipped overseas. Those are the facts, and if Romney won't be honest with you about them, then we will."

DNC Chair was joined by her Congressional colleague, Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-WI):

"In naming Congressman Paul Ryan as his running mate, Mitt Romney has chosen a leader of the House Republicans who shares his commitment to a very flawed economic theory. It's a theory that says you can give the wealthy budget-busting tax cuts and place greater burdens on the middle class and seniors, and somehow deliver a stronger economy as a result. We've already tried this theory, and it failed. Top-down, trickle-down- whatever you want to call it, it doesn't work. Our economy prospers only from a strong and growing middle class - but it is the middle class who would suffer in a Romney-Ryan administration.

"Ryan's extreme budget plan, which Romney has embraced, would make deep spending cuts now to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy, which would weaken the recovery. One economist estimated it could cost us more than a million jobs. And like Romney, Ryan proposed giving an additional \$250,000 tax cut to millionaires while deeply cutting education, from Head Start to college aid, and ending Medicare as we know it by turning it into a voucher system- something that would hurt so many folks in Florida, in Milwaukee, and across the country. Such a radical plan would shift more than \$6,000 of dollars in health care costs to the average senior."

President Obama Travels to Iowa, Talks Wind Energy

On Tuesday, President Obama traveled to Oskaloosa, Iowa, for a grassroots event where he highlighted his support for tax credits for wind energy manufacturers, who are helping to create thousands of American jobs in states across the country as well as helping to create a competitive clean energy industry. Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan would end the wind energy tax credit, which would put jobs at risk.

President Obama said: "But if [Romney] really wants to learn something about wind energy, Iowa, all he has to do is pay attention to what you've been doing. If he knew what you've been doing, he'd see that in places like Newton, where a few years ago, a Maytag plant shut down and jobs dried up; folks are now back to work manufacturing enormous new towers and blades for some of the most high-tech wind turbines on the planet. The wind industry now supports about 7,000 jobs in this state, and 75,000 jobs across the country. These jobs aren't a fad -they're good jobs and sources of pride we need to fight for If he knew what you've been doing, he'd know that about 20% of Iowa's electricity now comes from wind, powering our homes and factories and businesses in a way that's clean and renewable. In fact, over the past 4 years, we've doubled the amount of electricity America generates from wind. Across America, we've built the equivalent of 12 new Hoover Dams' worth of wind energy. Governor Romney may have figured out that you can't drive a car with a windmill on it, but he doesn't seem to know that America now has enough wind turbines installed to generate enough electricity from wind to power nearly 13 million homes with clean energy. That's how you leave something better for the next generation. That's what's at stake right now."

Holding Republicans Accountable

On Saturday, Mitt Romney announced he has picked Wisconsin Republican Paul Ryan as his running mate. Mitt Romney's policies are about benefiting millionaires and billionaires at the expense of middle class families. Now that Mitt Romney has put Paul Ryan on the ticket with him, this has been confirmed once again. How else can you describe the radical Republican budget Paul Ryan authored and Mitt Romney supports? A budget that gives a \$250,000 tax cut to the wealthiest Americans- while slashing funding for infrastructure, gutting research and development and ending Medicare as we know it, turning Medicare into a voucher program that would leave seniors exposed and vulnerable in the private insurance market.

See below for a roundup of how the Democratic National Committee is sounding the alarm about America's Go Back Team.

Ohio TV Coverage:<http://youtu.be/RLrk4LrhitM>

Florida TV Coverage:<http://youtu.be/GnMI6SqTq8>

Virginia& North Carolina TV Coverage:<http://youtu.be/n5IRuE8hgLA>

Democrats blast Ryan pick in mock Florida bus tour

Tampa Bay Times // Michael Van Sickler

"With Florida apparently being a no-fly zone for Paul Ryan, Mitt Romney's team has finally been forced to turn to Rick Scott, the nation's most unpopular governor, to introduce him this morning," said Wasserman Schultz. "But Rick Scott couldn't be a worse choice to address seniors' concerns about the Romney-Ryan plan, which ends Medicare as we know it and shreds the safety net for seniors. Scott's company was involved in what at the time was the largest Medicare fraud scheme in the history of the United States. "If Republicans are relying on Romney-Scott-Ryan team to carry the Sunshine State, Florida is looking increasingly like hostile territory for the GOP," Wasserman Schultz said

DNC announces new bus tour to stalk Romney

CNN //

The Democratic National Committee is rolling out another bus tour to trail Mitt Romney's own over the weekend through key battle ground states, harping on the Republican candidate's economic policies as throwing "the middle

class under the bus." The DNC tour will last for four days and make stops in Virginia, North Carolina, Florida and Ohio between Friday and Monday starting in Alexandria, Virginia on Friday at 9:30 a.m. ET, according to their announcement.

Romney's Bus Tour Gets Some Unwanted Company

New York Times // Emma Fitzsimmons

Mitt Romney is about to get some unwanted company on his upcoming bus tour across several swing states. The Democratic National Committee announced on Thursday that it will stage its own four-day bus tour alongside the Romney campaign's trip through Virginia, North Carolina, Florida and Ohio. The tour, called "Romney Economics: The Middle Class Under the Bus Tour," will begin on Friday with a news conference in Alexandria, Va.

DNC Bus Tour In Greensboro After Romney VP Announcement

WFMY Greensboro //

The Democratic National Committee's Romney Economics: The Middle Class Under the Bus tour made a stop in Greensboro Saturday. The group's goal is to highlight Gov. Mitt Romney's record of failure as Governor of Massachusetts, the lack of support for small businesses received from Romney's administration and Romney's proposed tax increase on middle-class families to pay for massive tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. Politicians from around the state and country spoke at Sticks and Stones Pizza on Walker Ave. about Mitt Romney's policies for the middle class.

Paul Ryan draws mixed reviews in N.C.

Charlotte Observer // April Bethea and Tim Funk

Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx said Romney's economic policies are "actually designed to hurt the middle class." Speaking at a bus-tour stop Saturday that the Democratic National Committee organized as a "prebuttal" to the Romney campaign's tour, Foxx said Ryan's selection further proves his point. "This election is about the fundamental choice our country faces: Barack Obama's plan, which grows our economy from the middle out, or Mitt Romney's plan, which is to try trickle-down economics again," Foxx said during an appearance in Raleigh. "We certainly don't need Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan's economic plan."

Democrats Stage "Romney Economics: The Middle Class Under the Bus Tour" to Follow Romney Bus Tour

Cleveland Leader //

On Thursday, the Democratic National Committee announced that it will stage its own four-day bus tour called "Romney Economics: The Middle Class Under the Bus Tour" alongside Romney's trip through Virginia, North Carolina, Florida and Ohio. Democratic organizers said that they would criticize Romney's record as governor of Massachusetts, as well as his proposals for middle class taxes. The DNC ran a similar bus tour back in June when Romney visited six swing states.

Last week, the DNC released a new web video titled, "[Women Are Worried: Mitt Romney's attacks on Women's Health](#)", which highlights Governor Mitt Romney's attack on women's rights. Governor Romney has given American women reason to worry about their healthcare, in particular with his assertion that he would "get rid" of federal

funding for Planned Parenthood, which provides critical preventative care including breast and cervical cancer screenings.

On Friday, Obama for America Campaign Manager Jim Messina sent a letter to the Romney Campaign's Matt Rhoades regarding Mitt Romney's tax returns. Messina said:

"I am writing to ask again that the Governor release multiple years of tax returns, but also to make an offer that should address his concerns about the additional disclosures. Governor Romney apparently fears that the more he offers, the more our campaign will demand that he provide. So I am prepared to provide assurances on just that point: if the Governor will release five years of returns, I commit in turn that we will not criticize him for not releasing more--neither in ads nor in other public communications or commentary for the rest of the campaign.

"This request for the release of five years, covering the complete returns for 2007-2012, is surely not unreasonable. Other Presidential candidates have released more, including the Governor's father who provided 12 years of returns. In the Governor's case, a five year release would appropriately span all the years that he has been a candidate for President. It would also help answer outstanding questions raised by the one return he has released to date, such as the range in the effective rates paid, the foreign accounts maintained, the foreign investments made, and the types of tax shelters used.

"To provide these five years, the Governor would have to release only three more sets of returns in addition to the 2010 return he has released and the 2011 return he has pledged to provide. And, I repeat, the Governor and his campaign can expect in return that we will refrain from questioning whether he has released enough or pressing for more."

Read the letter online [here](#).

Key Issues in the News and Background

WOMEN: The President is Strengthening Both Economic and Health Security for Millions of Women and Middle-Class Families; Romney Would Roll Back Women's Access to Important Preventive Care

Key Point: President Obama was in Denver this week talking about his commitment to strengthening both economic and health security for millions of women and middle-class families. While the President is helping women access preventive health services like cancer screenings, contraception and well-women exams, Mitt Romney would roll back women's access to important preventive care, turn over women's health decisions to their bosses and defund Planned Parenthood.

- **President Obama is in Denver today talking about his commitment to strengthening both economic and health security for women and middle-class families.** He'll keep urging Congress to immediately prevent a scheduled tax hike on 98 percent of Americans and highlight how Obamacare is helping 47 million women across the country access preventive health services like cancer screenings and contraception.
 - Please see [this new campaign video](#), featuring actress Elizabeth Banks discussing the President's commitment to women's health security.

- **For decades, health insurance companies refused to cover many of the services women needed.** Too many women have gone without the preventive care they need in recent years, putting their health at risk. Obamacare is changing that, making sure every woman can access the care she needs to live a long and healthy life.
- **Thanks to President Obama's landmark health reforms,** 47 million women across the country can now get important preventive health care with no co-pay or deductible.
 - Under Obamacare, women across the country are already getting preventive health services like mammograms and cervical cancer screenings at no extra cost.
 - On August 1, insurance companies began covering eight new women's health services - including contraception, well-woman visits and breastfeeding support.
- **Mitt Romney would roll back women's access** to important preventive health services.
 - 'Killing' Obamacare: Romney promises to repeal Obamacare on day one and put insurance companies back in charge. He'd let them deny coverage or charge unnecessarily high co-pays for the preventive care women need, and keep charging women more than men for the same coverage.
 - Giving Your Boss Control: Romney supports the Blunt-Rubio amendment that would turn women's health decisions over to their bosses. It could limit women's access to everything from birth control to the HPV vaccine to STI screenings.
 - "Get Rid of" Planned Parenthood: Romney says he'll "get rid of" federal funding for Planned Parenthood, preventing millions of women from accessing breast and cervical cancer screenings, annual exams and other care they need to stay healthy.

MEDICARE: Romney-Ryan Would Turn Medicare Into a Voucher Program and Charge Seniors More to Cut Taxes for Millionaires; The President Is Strengthening Medicare and Helping Seniors Save

Key Point: Romney and Ryan's plan to turn Medicare to a voucher program would raise seniors' health costs by thousands of dollars to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest. President Obama's \$716 billion in Medicare savings didn't cut benefits by a dime, and health reform is extending the life of Medicare by eight years - which is why Ryan included those exact same savings in his budget.

- **Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan would turn Medicare into a voucher program so they can give more tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires.** They would take away the guaranteed benefits seniors earned over a lifetime of hard work and give them a voucher that would only cover so much and leave them on their own for the rest. Nonpartisan experts have said a plan like this would cost people as much as \$6,400.
 - ***Must Watch:*** *This new OFA ad that sets the record straight. It's running in Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Florida, Colorado and Nevada.*

- **Fiction vs. Fact:** Romney and Ryan know that seniors don't like their extreme plan to raise health costs and turn Medicare into a voucher program, so they're attacking the President and lying about their own plan. They'll say anything to get elected.
 - **Fiction:** "Obama cut Medicare by \$716 billion." **Fact:** The \$716 billion in savings that are extending the life of Medicare through 2024 came from cutting unnecessary subsidies to insurance companies, waste and fraud - which is why Ryan put it in his budget, too. Those savings expanded benefits, like closing the doughnut hole - they didn't cut Medicare benefits a dime.
 - **Fiction:** "Obama threatens Medicare for the next generation." **Fact:** According to Medicare's own experts, Obamacare extends Medicare's life by eight years.
 - **Fiction:** "Romney-Ryan won't affect current seniors." **Fact:** Repealing Obamacare would raise Medicare premiums, raise prescription drug costs and force seniors to pay out of pocket for preventive care. It would also add fraud and waste back into Medicare, giving \$150 billion back to insurance companies.
 - **Fiction:** "Romney-Ryan will keep Medicare afloat." **Fact:** Romney-Ryan would reverse what President Obama has done to strengthen Medicare. According to Medicare's own experts, it would go bankrupt by the end of their first term.
 - **Must Watch:** [This new OFA videodebunking Romney's lies.](#)
- **President Obama is strengthening Medicare and helping seniors save money, which is why the AARP supported Obamacare in the first place.** It extended the life of Medicare by eight years without cutting benefits, and it's helping millions of seniors save through lower premiums, free preventive care, and less expensive prescription drugs.

RYAN: Congressman Ryan is an Articulate Spokesman for Mitt Romney's Top-Down Economic Vision, Which President Obama Fundamentally Disagrees With

Key Point: Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan believe in a top-down economy, the same formula that crashed our economy and devastated the middle class. President Obama believes we need an economy built to last and built from the middle class out, not the top down.

- **President Obama welcomes Congressman Paul Ryan to the race** and believes he's an articulate spokesman for Mitt Romney's top-down economic vision - a vision the President fundamentally disagrees with.
- **Romney and Ryan are committed to a flawed economic theory** - that giving the wealthy more budget-busting tax breaks and placing greater burdens on the middle class and seniors will somehow strengthen our economy.
- **We've tried this top-down theory, and it crashed our economy** and devastated the middle class. We can't afford to go back to the failed economic formula that got us into this mess.

- **President Obama believes we need an economy built to last and built from the middle class out** - where everyone gets a fair shot, does their fair share and plays by the same rules.

THE ROMNEY TAX HIKE: Romney Will Hike Taxes on Middle-Class Families and Small Business Owners So He Can Cut Taxes for Millionaires Like Himself; The President is Fighting for Middle-Class Security

Key Point: Obama for America is holding events in key states this week to contrast the Romney Tax Hike with President Obama's commitment to fighting for middle-class security. While the Romney Tax Hike would force middle-class families and small business owners to pay more in taxes so millionaires like Romney can pay less, President Obama is urging Congress to immediately prevent a tax hike on 98 percent of Americans and 97 percent of small businesses.

- **Events This Week:** Obama for America is holding events this week in key battleground states with local officials, small business owners and workers. They'll warn voters about the Romney Tax Hike and highlight President Obama's commitment to fighting for middle-class security.
 - Please see [this new campaign video](#), "The New Tax Calculator: President Obama's Plan vs. Mitt Romney's."
- **The Romney Tax Hike would make middle-class families and small business owners pay more in taxes so millionaires and billionaires like Romney can pay less.** According to nonpartisan tax experts, the Romney Tax Hike would cost middle-class families with children an average of \$2,000 a year to pay for budget-busting tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires like Romney.
- **President Obama is fighting for middle-class security.** He has a vision and a plan to create an economy built to last and built from the middle class out - where hard work pays off, responsibility is rewarded, and everyone has a fair shot and does their fair share.
 - **Middle-Class Tax Cuts:** He's urging Congress to immediately stop a tax hike on 98 percent of Americans and 97 percent of small businesses next year. Romney opposes this plan because it asks the wealthiest to pay their fair share again.
 - **Small Business Tax Relief:** He's fighting for new tax cuts for small businesses that hire and invest now. It builds on his 18 small business tax cuts that help them hire and make job-creating investments in equipment that grow their businesses.
 - **Investing in Entrepreneurs:** His plan reduces the deficit in a balanced way while still investing in education, energy, innovation and infrastructure to help our entrepreneurs and workers grow our economy and the middle class.

ROMNEY'S WELFARE LIE: Romney Is Lying about President Obama's Long Record of Making Sure Work Is Part of Welfare

Key Point: Romney is lying about the President's support for welfare-to-work requirements. President Obama has a long record of making sure work is part of welfare, and his waivers - requested by Republican governors - require

states to strengthen work requirements by at least 20 percent. Romney wanted to go further and allow waivers of time limits, which would undercut the central idea of welfare reform.

- **Mitt Romney's latest welfare ad is a complete and utter lie.** If Romney wants to talk about issues, he should start by taking his own advice.
 - Both *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*disputed Romney's claims.
 - President Clinton, who reformed welfare, said Romney's claims are "not true."
 - The Republican author of welfare reform says Romney is wrong.
 - Even Newt Gingrich said there's "no proof" that Romney's ad is accurate.
 - ***Must Watch:***[This OFA video debunking Romney's false attacks.](#)
- **The Facts:** President Obama's waivers don't weaken welfare-to-work requirements. They strengthen them and require states to move at least 20 percent *more* people to work.
 - The waivers won't be approved if they weaken or undercut welfare reform or try to avoid time limits on assistance. They'll be given only to states that test ways to moving more people to work.
 - President Obama has a long record of making sure work is part of welfare. As an Illinois State Senator, he was the lead Democrat on welfare reform and supported work requirements. He worked with Republicans to pass welfare reform, and they later praised his "bipartisan support and work" that helped get it done.
- **Romney's Blatant Hypocrisy:** As governor of Massachusetts, Romney requested the same kind of waivers that President Obama provided. Romney wanted to go further and allow waivers of time limits, which would undercut the central idea of welfare reform. That wouldn't be approved under the President's plan.
- **Romney Will Say Anything:** This is the latest in Romney's pattern of false and hypocritical distortions of President Obama's record. Romney would rather lie about the President than talk about issues.