

IMPACT OF THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET ON WOMEN

Impact on Economic and Job Security

"My plan to balance the budget... will help raise average living standards by cutting unnecessary spending while investing in education and training, targeting tax relief to middle income Americans, and taking incremental but serious steps toward health care reform... Though I am determined to ...balance the budget, I cannot accept legislation that will threaten the living standards of American families." President Clinton, June 28, 1995

The Republican Plan:

Proposes a \$245 billion tax cut primarily for the wealthy. President Clinton proposes a tax cut to help middle-income families raise their children, save for the future, and pay for post-secondary education.

The Senate proposal reduces the Earned Income Tax Credit, raising taxes for as many as 17 million EITC recipients and over 23 million children. President Clinton continues the expansion of tax relief for working families, including 16 million families with 27 million children. Total tax relief amounts to \$24 billion in 1996 and \$32 billion in 2002.

Cuts funding for enforcement of worker protections that so many women depend on, like Family and Medical Leave and the minimum wage, from \$101 to \$89 million. In his FY 1996 proposal, President Clinton raises funding from \$101 million to \$117 million.

Impact on the Fight Against Domestic Violence

"...The Violence Against Women Act is...a part of the genius of the crime bill because of its commitment to raise to national prominence an issue that had never, ever been there before; and because it combines tough sanctions against abusers with assistance to police and to prosecutors and to shelters." President Clinton, October 2, 1995

House Republicans proposed \$50 million less funding than the President for law enforcement and prosecution programs combatting violence against women, threatening full enforcement of the Violence Against Women Act that will be felt in courthouses and police stations in both urban and rural areas throughout the country. President Clinton increases funding from \$25 million to \$175 million.

House Republicans proposed \$24.4 million less than the President for domestic violence prevention programs and victims services, eliminating programs aiming to reduce sexual abuse of our youth and providing less funding for battered women's shelters. In his FY 1996 budget, the President increases funding from \$1 million to \$61.9 million for rape and domestic violence prevention, domestic violence education, battered women's shelters, and a domestic violence hotline.

Access to Quality Health Care

The President's budget plan reflects America's values. It secures the Medicare Trust Fund, while strengthening--not gutting--our Medicare program. It calls for reasonable, moderate reforms in Medicaid, while keeping our guarantee to children and older and disabled Americans.

The Republican Plan:

Cuts \$270 billion from Medicare over 7 years, doubling deductibles, raising premiums and raising the eligibility age on the Senate side. In his balanced budget proposal, President Clinton reforms Medicare financing to cut spending by \$124 billion to extend the solvency of the Trust Fund for ten more years without any new costs for beneficiaries. President Clinton also expands benefits by eliminating the co-payment for mammograms for older women, and providing respite care for families of people with Alzheimer's. The Republican proposals do not cover either of these.

Cuts over \$180 billion from Medicaid by 2002--cutting funding for states by 30% in 2002. Up to 8.8 million children, older Americans and people with disabilities could lose their insurance coverage in 2002 alone. President Clinton reduces Medicaid costs by \$54 billion by 2002 and maintains coverage by proposing a per person cap rather than a block grant.

The House repeals important protections including nursing home reforms that protect quality of care in nursing homes and institutions caring for people with mental retardation, and protections against spousal impoverishment by allowing spouses of nursing home residents receiving Medicaid to retain enough monthly income and assets to avoid destitution.

Jeopardizes long term care -- may force states to eliminate coverage for approximately 330,000 people who need home care and 350,000 nursing home residents -- making families choose between long-term care for parents and children who may need it, or between nursing home care for their parents and an education for their children. President Clinton proposes grants for states for home and community based services for older and disabled Americans.

Impact on Education and Training

Education is the key to the future of America. In his balanced budget proposal, President Clinton increases funding for education, training and aid to students and families by \$40 billion while balancing the budget. The Republican proposals cut current levels of funding for education and training by \$36 billion.

The Republican Plan:

The House proposal eliminates Goals 2000, destroying the nation's most important bipartisan school reform initiative. President Clinton proposes to increase funding to \$750 million, enabling local communities and states to improve their schools and raise standards of achievement for more than 8 million children in 17,000 schools next year.

Cuts School-to-Work funding to \$190 million. Clinton increases funding by \$400 million, so states can implement plans to raise student skills and build a more competitive work place.

The House Bill eliminates the Direct Lending program. Part of his Student Loan Reform Act, President Clinton's Direct Lending program, is already saving taxpayers \$6.8 billion, lowering interest rates for students, making loans simpler and faster and allowing flexible repayment plans.

Eliminates Women's Educational Equity Act Program. The President proposes maintaining \$4 million funding, supporting projects that promote education equity for women and girls through research and training.

Cuts funding for Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities to \$200 million, depriving over 23 million students of services that keep crime, violence and drugs out of schools. The President's proposal provides \$500 million per year, serving 39 million children in 14,575 out of 15,000 school districts.

Funds Head Start at \$500 million less than the President's request, denying service to over 45,000 children. President Clinton proposes that FY 1996 funding be increased by \$400 million and that 32,000 new slots be added for children in 1996.

Takes Away The Right To Choose

The President has consistently protected the right of American women to make their own reproductive choices, while working to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies. House Republican proposals use the budget to reverse each step in this direction.

House Republican Plan:

Allows states to deny Medicaid funding for victims of rape and incest. The Department of Health and Human Services implemented a Congressionally ordered change to Medicaid to include abortion services for poor women who are the victims of rape, incest, or whose lives are in danger.

Restores the ban on privately funded abortion services at military hospitals. President Clinton reversed this ban, assuring military families comprehensive family planning services.

Restores Mexico City Policy, denying all funding for overseas family planning organizations that perform abortions or attempt to influence government policy on abortion. The President repealed Mexico City Policy when he came into office.

Restores the ban on federal funding of human embryo research, jeopardizing advances in health areas affecting women and treatment of diseases such as leukemia and Parkinson's. President Clinton issued an executive order when he came into office repealing this ban.

Effectively ends the Family Planning Program, jeopardizing provision of family planning services to millions of women. President Clinton proposed increased funding for grants under the Family Planning Program in FY 1996 budget.