**House of Representatives 2**

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**Education**

Education is the foundation of American society and should be handled with utmost importance. We believe the quality of education and its availability to all directly relates to American growth and success. Thus, education should be a main priority regulated by the government to grow America’s future. Even with government regulation, it is equally important that parents are involved to encourage and motivate their children throughout their educational career. It is our firm belief that one type of education system does not fit all which makes it the role of government to build schools that cater to different types of learning. If even one child is struggling, governmental intervention is imperative in order ensure a successful educational experience. If one child fails all of America fails.

The role of American education is to tap into the potential of each and every student in order to stimulate their potential for the success, and growth of America. We also believe in allowing a choice of public or private school though both must meet certain standards set forth by the government. Our party finds the “No child left behind act” enacted under George W. Bush’s presidency deplorable and encourages mediocrity. Failure to pass a grade level, even in elementary school, should be allowed if needed to ensure age-appropriate development and success. Education for grade levels K-12 should be mandatory with no legal dropout age, and college strongly encouraged and affordable for all.

Education is vital because it builds up productive citizens. If we can instill at an early age that “America expects success and innovation from everyone,” crime, incarceration, and unproductive activity will decline drastically. Education is the American foundation that affects everything else, and without a strong foundation, America will fail.

**Health Insurance Reform**

Health insurance is a very controversial and complex matter in our society today. Health insurance is very costly for many people in America, but should not disqualify them from medical services. A good quality of life and health of every individual is, and should be more important than insurance companies generating revenue. Our party believes it is the job of the American government to try and meet those who can not afford health insurance half way. We also believe in using taxes to cover those who can not afford health insurance. We believe that if America offers a health care insurance system it should first focus on accommodating those who do not have or can not afford health insurance. We believe all American citizens should receive health insurance as a basic right that is provided by the government. We believe the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare is a good start to a government health care plan but should be amended for improvements such as lower deductibles. In a government health care insurance plan our party also believes in a person’s right to die. We do not however believe in hospitals assisting in the process of letting a person die other than taking them off of life support if that is their wish. It is very apparent that an obstacle of health insurance in America is cost, and in order to surmount this obstacle, we as Americans must agree to take care of those who cannot afford to do so.

**Abortion**

We believe in complete pro-choice for our citizens in the first and second trimesters of the pregnancy. During the third trimester, regulations should be set to ensure the health of the mother and fetus. Not all pregnancies are planned. Incidents happen, whether the person is a victim of rape or if the couple is just not ready at the time for the responsibility of another human being. Some people aren’t financially stable or in the right mental state to take care and support a child.

In 2010, a USDA report showed the average family will spend about $12,000 on expenses in the first year of the child’s life. That number has jumped to $14,000 in the last two years. The decision should be in the hands of the woman, who is going to have to carry the baby for 9 months and have countless sleepless nights and pains. Some may say, instead of having an abortion, just put the baby up for adoption, but this route is not always ideal. In the foster care system, kids most likely will live with multiple families throughout their childhood. Do you know how damaging that can be to a kid? Not knowing who their parents are and going from house to house, unsure of who they’ll live with the next day. Events like this can destroy a child’s life. In 2008, about 41 percent of pregnancies were reported to be unintentional. Bodily autonomy is a basic human right, which a woman has. A fetus on the other hand, does not. It’s not a physically independent body because of the attachment to the mother, meaning without the mother, there would be no fetus. If the parents don’t think they are ready for this huge responsibility of caring for a child, then they should not be forced into that situation.

**Military Defense**

Our party believes and stands by a strong military defense that is ready to go at all times but our rate of expense is too high. Over the span of the past few years, military spending has increased by 100%. This is slightly absurd. We agree that we need to keep the highest tier of weapon in our inventory so that if the situation presents itself, we can be prepared. The money spent is used to pay for the training of the troops, health care, facilities, fund operations and more. It is necessary that we keep our Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps up to par. The US has received multiple threats from places like North Korea, Iraq and Syria and part of the reason why they haven’t attacked is because they know the amount of damage we could do to their nations.

With us spending such a large amount on the military, it ensures that soldiers get fair pay, which helps keep top troops in service. It can also help with the recruitment process and help the military force gain loyal troops. Military spending also creates a huge amount of jobs. Even if your not working directly in the military, it can create employment opportunities when it comes to the manufacturing field and even more jobs when it comes to those that produce tanks, weapons, etc. But a100% increase in spending comes at a cost to other needs in our society.

Our main priorities is to ensure that our nation can feel a sense of security and pride. The people come first when we make all of our decisions and we believe it is in our best interest for our citizens and troops if we continue to spend the right amount of money to keep up our armed services and make sure they’re comfortable and can withstand the stresses and pressures that come with defending our country. However, we cannot ignore the other needs in our society today because of potential military threats in the future. We will insure to decrease and balance spending.

**Gun Control/Gun Rights**

The second amendment does protect our citizens to own firearms, although we believe it requires certain limits. We are not trying to change the second amendment that allows you the right to bear arms. We simply wants our country to have some common sense gun laws to reduce the senseless mass shootings that have spiked over the last couple of years. 33,000 citizens die each year in our country from gun deaths. We propose requiring a national permit that allows you to purchase a firearm. This will require a background check before buying a gun in any venue and prohibits the sale of guns to anyone with any conviction involving violence including violent misdemeanors. This will not only help keep guns out of the hands of criminals, but also allow law-abiding people to continue to purchase guns for hunting and safety.

We have data from states that have done this to show that requiring such a permit helps reduce both homicides and suicides by gun. A 2006 study by Duke University’s Elizabeth Richardson Vigdor and James A. Mercy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention looked at data from 1982 through 2002 from 46 states and found that policies that prevented people with a domestic-violence restraining order from owning a gun are correlated with a 7 percent reduction in intimate-partner homicides. Another study by Webster and Michigan State’s April M. Zeoli, found that such policies were associated with a 19 percent reduction in intimate-partner homicides. Additionally, common sense gun laws will set limits on guns for people with known mental illness. Specifically, person who is deemed dangerous to himself or others by a qualified professional would not be allowed to purchase or possess a gun. This would be a limited restriction though, pending successful treatment of the illness.

**Death Penalty**

The death penalty should continue to be an available punishment in our society today to deal with the most severe crimes. We have yet to find treatments that can reverse some of the behavior of some people and therefore, we need a method to keep them out of society. Prisons today are already overcrowded and quite costly to society. According to the Vera Institute of Justice, incarceration costs an average of more than $31,000 per inmate, per year, nationwide. In some states, it can be as much as $60,000. Additionally, taking care of a prisoner on death row costs $90,000 more per year than the average prisoner. These costs come at the expense of the taxpayer and could be better spent elsewhere. Additionally, from a justice perspective, violent criminals deserve to be punished instead of having a place to live, three meals per day and healthcare. While prison conditions are not great, they are better than some of the conditions that some poor members of our community face on a daily basis. If the prisoner is serving a life sentence anyway, and has been accused beyond a reasonable doubt, why should it be at the expense of others to keep them alive and well when they are only going to die in that setting anyway.

Also, when a loved one is brutally murdered, family members deserve the opportunity for the killer to suffer the most severe consequence which is death. It is a smack in the face when such a convict gets a lighter sentence or gets to live out his years when the loved one had that taken away from them. Lastly, these criminals tend to remain violent while in prison and require a high level of supervision in order to protect the safety of other prisoners and prison workers, which is a burden on our law enforcement.

**Immigration**

Immigration is a controversial topic, but we believe that our new plan can make immigration fair and possible for anyone. We believe that immigration is a problem in America, however we also believe that to become a citizen of the United States it the procedure should be clear. Immigrants keep our economy steady by increasing the productive capacity and raise GDP (gross domestic product). In addition they tend to flow into jobs that are needed at the time.

The first part to our four-step immigration plan is support for countries with problems that lead to people leaving. We need to recognize these issues whether they be violence or poverty and try to help provide support and infrastructure there. The second step is our welcoming process for those who need to flee. This part of the process welcomes immigrants into the country. When they arrive in America they stay in a government regulated area with housing and food until they are cleared through the process. This should be welcoming rather than punitive.

The third step is the confirmation process. This process should only takes two months or less. A background check will be run on each individual to help ensure our country's safety and to determine how the immigrant will be a benefit to our country.

Our last step includes a mandatory English class, paid for by our country. 95.6% of our country have a basic level of the English language. Having this strong basic knowledge will help them create stronger social connections and broaden their job availability.

If you make it through the process successfully you are now a citizen of the United States. Immigrants are welcome to stay with current family already in the US or work and stay in our housing units mentioned before to get a head start financially.

**Climate Change**

Global warming is a very big issue here in the United States. We will work hard to ensure that the earth will be as green as possible. The first step in ensuring the earth will be healthy and will be able to sustain humans for many more years to come is clean energy.

Clean energy consists of solar power, wind farming, etc. We will start with solar power. Fossil fuels are killing the atmosphere, because of that we work to replace fossil fuels with clean energy. Solar panels will become less expensive to encourage businesses to replace fossil fuels with solar panels. In addition, we will utilize much more wind power in our country, which will provide thousands of people with clean energy.

The next step in saving our earth will be a tree conservation project. The tree conservation project ensure that forests will be protected from deforestation. Many animals natural habitats are set in forests. This leads to species becoming endangered and in extreme cases, becoming extinct. There will be a new rule, every tree the government cuts down we will plant one elsewhere to replace it.

The last step in the process will be to teach the general population about the effects of global warming and how we can prevent it. There will be online tools and websites to help people better understand global warming. Careful attention to how this affects them in their specific community will help them better understand the significant impacts of climate change to future generation.