**People’s**

**Action**

**Party**

**Senate 2**

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# Health Insurance Reform

Healthcare solely in the hands of the government is a system that is bound to be expensive as well as ineffective. That system of healthcare would lead reduction in quality of healthcare with longer wait times. Removal of healthcare from the private sector would also lead to a decrease in the amount of an incentive for innovation in new medicines as these medicines would be regulated by the government to make them affordable lowering the profit margins of the innovation causing less innovation as seen in other countries. On the other hand, healthcare is a necessity that can not be solely left to the private sector either and restrictions are necessary. Our parties solution the balance these two issues are to create a more affordable public healthcare plan with low or nonexistent profit margins to be available to those who are unable to afford or access higher quality healthcare. This public system would not be largely taxpayer subsidized and would run based off of the lower price considering the lower profit margins involved. The private sector would still be allowed to stay active and flourish. The private sectors could continue to compete against each other to provide better care than their opponents even including the public system. This would give incentives for people purchasing healthcare to not simply choose the government option as it would be not at efficient or as good as a private and innovative sector but would still be able to provide the most basic care for those who are in need of it. The governmental sector of healthcare would also not be allowed any special permissions and would be held to the same standards as the private sector to once again allow for fair competition and inspiration for innovation between the two sectors.

# 2) Gun Control/Gun Rights

Every year about 124,760 people are shot with a gun, of those people around 35,141 of them die. As a party, we believe that number is too high. We also acknowledge that the founding fathers of our great country made it a constitutional right for the people of America to able to bear arms and protect themselves. Our candidate promises to fight for legislation that will introduce stricter background checks, a waiting period, and a mental evaluation.

However, we will not support a ban on any weapons or modifications as we feel that infringes on the constitution. Also, a full ban of guns would end mass shootings but wouldn’t end mass killings. We can see examples of this in regions such as Africa and Europe, where people have been able to commit atrocious murders using knives, cars, or other unbannable items. We are looking out for both the gun owners and for the safety of our nation. The reason for mass shootings is not because of the gun, but because of how easily the person using it was able to obtain it. The background check system is definitely flawed as it has allowed many individuals suffering from mental illness to be able to get their hands on a dangerous weapon. A stricter background check would catch future criminals before they can cause the next mass shooting. Implementing a waiting period would also reduce the number of people who purchase guns out of irrational decision for suicides or worse crimes. The best way to fight bad people with guns is good people skilled with guns. If elected, our candidates will increase spending for better training for our law enforcement officers and for better security in schools because the system we have in place right is clearly not working with kids going to school in fear of being the next horror story.

# 3) Abortion

Our candidates will vote against any and all legislation that expands *Roe v. Wade* and instead return the issue of abortion back to the states. We believe that instead of fully overturning the landmark supreme court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, that we instead mend it to protect both the rights of the woman and the unborn child. Within the first trimester, we believe that the states should be able to regulate a woman’s access to an abortion (ex. only allow victims of rape to have access to an abortion). From the second trimester and going forward, abortion should be completely banned. Our reasoning behind our stance is that we believe that life begins when the brain starts functioning. Which, according tomedical research happens roughly around week fourteen, the brain will begin to fire impulses. Also, a woman knew that one of the possible outcomes from participating in sexual activities is a pregnancy so she shouldn't be given complete say over what happens to the potential life she is carrying. Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that all men hold ”certain unalienable rights” such as “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”. Therefore, we should be worried about the potential life developing inside a woman, making sure we don’t infringe on their rights. Health care providers should be able to sit down with women thinking about making this decision and talk them through the pros and the cons. Also, explain to the woman other options such as adoption instead of just terminating a pregnancy and lastly, have a twenty-four hour waiting period for the woman to fully make an informed decision. However, if a woman is put in a situation where carrying the child can lead to her own death, she will be allowed to go through a safe and legal abortion as her own life is at risk.

# 4) Military/Defense

In 2016, the US spent over $611 billion on the military. That is equal to 54% of all of the U.S. spendings during that year. Our country also spends the most amount of money on our military by a landslide, which second place, China, spends $228 billion. Russia spending $69 billion, Saudi Arabia $63.7 billion, India $55.5 billion, and France which spends $55.7 billion. Other countries do not even come as near as that. The US spends as much as the next seven countries combined of which only China and Russia are not American allies. Countries in the middle-east such as Iran, Algeria, and Pakistan only come in at low places with around $10 billion.

Many say that the U.S. just has a higher military budget because its economy and the budget is larger, but the 3.3% of the GDP at the time($18.62 trillion) shows that the amount is huge as well. Only Russia, Israel, some areas in the Gulf, and some oppressive governments around the world beat this percentage, many which use their military inside to stay in power. For example: Iran spends 3.0%. Even when someone accepts that it is the American peoples full interest that their government can show power all over the world, this kind of spending is more than normal and unnecessary. All together, more than half of the countries named above are off limits because they have a nuclear presence of their own. To control terrorism in Central Asia or areas in Africa, a drone program connected with direct communication would probably be sufficient and be more cost effective than extremely expensive trillion-dollar wars. Not to mention that in this time period, real power is created by economic means, in which we aren’t using the proper and correct way to distribute it.

# 5) Gay Marriage/Gay Rights

As the people’s action party, we believe gay marriage/rights are one of many inalienable rights. The Declaration of Independence states everyone is entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Liberty know is defined as the freedom to exercise the rights stated in the constitution. One of those rights stated is in the Fourteenth Amendment under the equal protection clause, which makes it illegal to treat people differently based off of gender, race, sexual preference, etc. Therefore, guaranteed by law the right of all people to marry whom they want.

 The pursuit of happiness, for most means, is the ability to express themselves freely without fear of government intervention. This includes the ability to walk around with whom they love or be open to their peers about who they are. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, if you identify as a homosexual you are two to seven times more likely to commit suicide than someone who identifies as heterosexual. We believe that shouldn’t be a reality just because you love someone. People are clearly not happy if they feel they need to die to be truly free.

In conclusion, we believe that there should be no restrictions on gay marriage or gay rights. This includes no restrictions on marital insurance, access to adoption, ability to be openly gay/bi/lesbian without punishment, etc. We believe that the right to marriage and basic human rights should be extended to all, including people who identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

# 6) Death Penalty

America has turned into a place many feared of, especially the elderly, young women, and children. One of the things the government has to do is to protect the people so we are able to have liberty within America. However, violence and crime can threaten this liberty and ever since the violence reached an all-time high in the 1950s, homicide rates have drastically gone down within this nation. As being part of the People’s Action Party, we believe that the death penalty should not be imposed onto the courts, and here’s why.

With the way the death penalty system is implemented, the process itself has to be very useless and expensive (the legal process surrounding it, not the execution). According to the *Death Penalty Information Center*,Florida spends over $1 million for one single death row inmate alone and over $51 million per year to support the death penalty than the costs for keeping the murderers in prison for life. Also, the systems seem very useless as we still have people from the 1970s still waiting on death row, and that a quarter of death row inmates die from natural causes, most of it being age-related. That being said, getting a death sentence is basically getting a life sentence with an execution coming decades later. In 2010, a death row inmate waited roughly 15 years between their sentencing and execution taking place.

Overall, the current death penalty isn’t a discouragement, because of the time you wait before the execution, the probability of you getting sentenced to death and the time of you getting executed generally mean the same thing. Not only that, but keeping a death row inmate is an economic waste towards the U.S. economy.

# 7) Education

Education is necessary for all children and is a requirement for high wage employment in today's economy. Education should be available to all children regardless of the wealth of the child's family. America's current education uses too much regulation power from the federal government with common core standards. These standards do not allow for the individuality of students to be allowed to flourish. Another current problem in our education is the low pay for teachers in public schools. An average of $12,000 is spent per pupil per year in primary and secondary public education. This spending puts the United States in third for per-pupil spending, ahead of many other countries with much better results from education. Our parties means of solving the problems with the lack of results to correlate with education spending is by providing more financial incentives for higher achieving standards. PBIS policies are being applied to schools all over the country as an effective means of shaping a better and more intelligent generation. Policies like Merit-Based pay can be an equivalent to the PBIS policies implemented for students. These policies will allow teachers with better results to rise in rank or status and pay within the school system incentivizing more teachers to act in a similar fashion as well as force underperforming and unengaging teachers to change methods of teaching. We are already spending enough on education and what we truly need is proper spending in the right area of education. With college prices and necessity both on the rise. Our party plans to temporarily allow the government to provide student loans for students attending college while more affordable programs such as online education and learning internships within the private sectors develop.

# 8) Immigration

During the past few decades, immigration has rapidly increased due to a lack of local access to resources, a desire for economic prosperity, to find/engage in paid work, and etc. As we, the People's Action Party, believe in strengthening our borders for harder entry into the United States, also believe in providing for those who are already a citizen here. By doing that, we want to help the economy support a better pathway for access to a citizenship. As the late former president, George H.W. Bush was a Republican with more moderate views/positions on the issue of immigration. An “act of love” was how he had described illegal immigrants coming to the United States looking for work.

About a decade later, after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, immigration had decreased due to the extra precautions put on national security to ensure the safety of the American citizens. That is an example of why we need to strengthen our borders to enforce the protection of our country. We do not see how it is that difficult to immigrate here, therefore we have made several propositions we believe to help make entry into the United States harder than before. One of the main changes we can make is to provide a comprehensive security system. Another way is to allow for operational flexibility since the United States has tripled border spendings in over the past 10 years.

As we imagine it is not fair to the immigrants that are already living in the United States, we want to provide as much as we can for them as possible. For example, we can donate to legal services and make it easier for them to request for a citizenship and/or a green card. As citizens who are willing to fight for the rights of immigrants, they can also protest for many causes regarding immigration, protected by the freedom to assembly in the First Amendment.