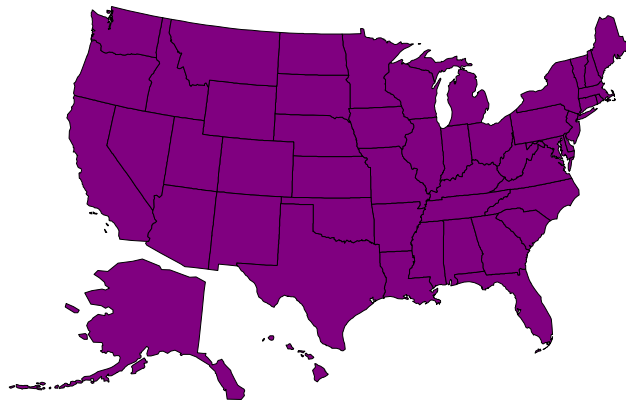


A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES:

STATE-BY-STATE ANALYSIS OF

**ESTATE TAX REPEAL AND
MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT**



WHITE HOUSE DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

JULY 27, 2000

**A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES:
ESTATE TAX AND MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT
OVERVIEW**

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a responsible budget that protects Social Security and Medicare, takes Medicare Part A off-budget and extends the Trust Fund to 2030; pays off the national debt by 2012; and makes critical investments in:
 - **Voluntary, affordable Medicare prescription drug benefit.** As prescription drug prices rise and coverage drops, investing in a new, optional benefit is essential to help prepare Medicare for the health care challenges of the 21st century. It is also important to make Medicare more efficient and competitive, ensure that provider payments are adequate to ensure quality, and decrease the uninsured to decrease uncompensated care.
 - **Targeted tax policies including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief.** The Clinton-Gore Administration and Democrats support targeted tax policies including responsible marriage penalty relief as well as tax relief for retirement savings, long-term care, education, child care, school construction, working families with three or more children, workers with disabilities, and health insurance coverage. Nearly two-thirds of the benefits go to middle-class Americans, compared to about one-fourth under the proposals passed by the Republican-led Ways and Means Committee.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only the wealthiest 2 percent of families benefit from the repeal of the estate tax. In 25 states, there are fewer than 500 estates that would benefit. Yet, when fully phased-in by 2010, the average benefit per estate will be \$800,000 (\$390,000 for fewer than 43,000 estates in 1997, the data used in this report). Half of the benefits of estate tax repeal go to the top one-tenth of 1 percent of the eligible population.
 - All 39 million Medicare beneficiaries would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. In 10 states, the number of Medicare beneficiaries exceeds 1 million. This will help seniors whose average income nationally is about \$20,000 and is, in some states, as low as \$15,000.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT AND MEDICARE REFORMS

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly and people with disabilities is limited.** Only 3 in 5 Medicare beneficiaries have dependable, affordable prescription drug coverage.
 - **16 states have 20 percent or fewer firms offering health insurance to retirees.** Nationally, 22 percent of firms offer health insurance to retirees older than age 65. No state has more than 30 percent of firms offering this coverage. Trends suggest that this coverage will continue to decline, so that very few seniors will get their prescription drug coverage through their former employers in the future.
 - **Private Medigap premiums are expensive – especially for older seniors.** On average, it costs about \$164 per month for a 65-year old to buy a Medigap plan that pays for prescription drugs and lower cost sharing (seniors cannot buy insurance for prescription drugs alone). Monthly premiums range from \$107 to \$249. These high and variable premiums help explain why only about 10 percent of beneficiaries get prescription drugs through Medigap – and why almost half of these Medigap enrollees do not keep it for the entire year.
 - **Access to Medicare managed care will decline in 2001.** Because some managed care plans have decided not to participate in Medicare, nearly 1 million beneficiaries will have reduced -- or no -- access to managed care which usually covers prescriptions.

This is why the House Republican plan -- that relies on private insurers to voluntarily offer prescription drug coverage -- will not work. In fact, in one state that tried this approach, no qualified insurer participated, validating the insurance industry's assertion that a private insurance model will not work.

- **Long-overdue, voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit.** The Clinton-Gore Administration and Congressional Democrats have proposed a voluntary, affordable Medicare prescription drug benefit for all beneficiaries. It would provide prescription drug coverage that would have a zero deductible and cover half of all prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 when fully phased-in. It will also limit all out-of-pocket medication costs to \$4,000. This optional benefit would also provide negotiated discounts that would ensure that Medicare beneficiaries no longer pay the highest prices in the marketplace. It would be part of a broader plan to strengthen and modernize Medicare.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers.** Adequate Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to the nation's health care providers, including:
 - 5,294 hospitals (including 1,379 rural hospitals and 1,124 teaching hospitals)
 - 7,426 home health agencies, and
 - 14,829 nursing homes.

These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants. Increasing coverage decreases uncompensated care for health care providers, especially for safety net providers.

**TABLE 1. STATE INFORMATION ON RECIPIENTS OF
ESTATE TAX VERSUS MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN**

	Number of Taxable Estates 1997 (1)	Average Benefit Taxable Estate 1997 (1)	Number of Medicare Beneficiaries (2)	Average Income of Seniors (3)	Percent of Firms Offering Retiree Coverage (4)	Average Medigap Premiums (5)
Alabama	440	\$342,000	669,000	\$17,800	19%	\$135
Alaska	50	\$87,000	38,000	\$26,600	na	\$131
Arizona	670	\$398,000	651,000	\$21,100	22%	na
Arkansas	250	\$413,000	433,000	\$14,500	14%	\$193
California	6,110	\$436,000	3,783,000	\$20,900	19%	na
Colorado	300	\$397,000	451,000	\$22,400	25%	\$155
Connecticut	880	\$372,000	510,000	\$22,300	24%	\$230
Delaware	110	\$682,000	108,000	\$20,900	na	\$147
D.C.	200	\$495,000	76,000	\$19,400	na	na
Florida	4,280	\$434,000	2,761,000	\$18,600	20%	\$199
Georgia	630	\$379,000	885,000	\$17,900	24%	\$249
Hawaii	190	\$463,000	159,000	\$17,500	29%	na
Idaho	80	\$444,000	159,000	\$17,200	na	na
Illinois	2,500	\$351,000	1,626,000	\$17,800	25%	\$146
Indiana	820	\$305,000	841,000	\$18,300	21%	na
Iowa	650	\$172,000	476,000	\$18,900	17%	\$123
Kansas	390	\$380,000	389,000	\$20,700	21%	\$143
Kentucky	350	\$649,000	610,000	\$18,600	20%	na
Louisiana	530	\$398,000	596,000	\$15,000	24%	\$178
Maine	220	\$644,000	211,000	\$16,300	20%	\$222
Maryland	1,080	\$290,000	628,000	\$23,600	23%	na
Massachusetts	1,020	\$400,000	951,000	\$19,600	25%	na
Michigan	1,120	\$283,000	1,379,000	\$18,700	28%	\$179
Minnesota	610	\$361,000	644,000	\$18,000	19%	na
Mississippi	200	\$242,000	411,000	\$15,400	17%	\$147
Missouri	990	\$330,000	850,000	\$19,500	18%	\$150
Montana	150	\$149,000	134,000	\$17,900	na	\$126
Nebraska	210	\$306,000	251,000	\$16,900	22%	\$126
Nevada	310	\$364,000	223,000	\$19,600	20%	\$162
New Hampshire	200	\$323,000	164,000	\$18,600	na	\$125
New Jersey	1,880	\$339,000	1,188,000	\$20,500	20%	na
New Mexico	150	\$327,000	225,000	\$19,300	20%	\$175
New York	3,380	\$506,000	2,666,000	\$21,200	24%	\$193
North Carolina	720	\$371,000	1,095,000	\$17,800	22%	\$139
North Dakota	50	\$286,000	103,000	\$17,200	na	na
Ohio	1,610	\$347,000	1,689,000	\$17,700	28%	\$146
Oklahoma	520	\$231,000	500,000	\$19,100	22%	\$129
Oregon	410	\$363,000	481,000	\$18,800	21%	\$131
Pennsylvania	1,980	\$348,000	2,089,000	\$18,500	22%	\$140
Rhode Island	260	\$247,000	170,000	\$15,500	na	\$130
South Carolina	450	\$244,000	545,000	\$15,400	21%	\$155
South Dakota	100	\$118,000	118,000	\$16,400	na	\$134
Tennessee	610	\$298,000	807,000	\$16,300	24%	na
Texas	1,960	\$499,000	2,196,000	\$18,700	19%	\$150
Utah	140	\$308,000	198,000	\$20,800	21%	\$112
Vermont	190	\$309,000	86,000	\$17,400	na	na
Virginia	1,120	\$362,000	864,000	\$20,200	23%	\$107
Washington	870	\$376,000	718,000	\$21,700	17%	\$191
West Virginia	200	\$274,000	335,000	\$16,300	19%	\$162
Wisconsin	630	\$421,000	775,000	\$19,000	23%	na
Wyoming	30	\$333,000	64,000	\$18,300	na	\$149
Total	42,800	\$388,000	37,979,000	\$19,100	22%	\$164

1. Number of taxpayers paying estate tax and average amount per estate in 1997 (latest available data; Office of Tax Policy, Treasury). Rounded to nearest 5 / \$1,000. Excludes

2. Number of Medicare beneficiaries in 1998 (latest available data; HCFA). Rounded to nearest 1,000.

3. Average income of people ages 65+; Average for 1996-98 from Current Population Surveys

4. Private-sector establishments offering retirees 65+ insurance, 1996. Source: AHRQ, 1996 MEPS Insurance Component.

5. Average Medigap premiums for Plan I for a 65 year old; from GAO/HEHS-00-70R. Plan I includes reduced cost sharing, drug coverage of: \$250 deductible, 50% copay \$1

**TABLE 2. STATE INFORMATION ON RECIPIENTS OF
ESTATE TAX VERSUS MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN**

	Number of Hospitals (1)	Number of Rural Hospitals (2)	Number of Teaching (3)	Number of Home Health Agencies (4)	Number of Skilled Nursing Facilities (5)
Alabama	108	15	19	140	220
Alaska	18	14	0	17	15
Arizona	67	21	14	76	154
Arkansas	92	38	10	185	190
California	421	43	101	589	1,278
Colorado	73	36	21	140	203
Connecticut	44	2	18	84	250
Delaware	8	0	2	16	36
D.C.	10	0	8	17	19
Florida	224	19	44	332	727
Georgia	161	28	15	101	327
Hawaii	22	10	6	20	41
Idaho	45	23	2	56	82
Illinois	196	40	62	301	658
Indiana	141	14	21	186	504
Iowa	116	62	18	187	293
Kansas	141	84	14	156	267
Kentucky	107	28	10	111	306
Louisiana	147	21	20	272	210
Maine	33	16	5	36	126
Maryland	53	0	20	53	243
Massachusetts	96	3	38	149	514
Michigan	150	37	52	195	383
Minnesota	147	39	14	250	420
Mississippi	89	41	2	63	135
Missouri	134	53	32	185	457
Montana	58	51	2	54	101
Nebraska	90	58	10	74	170
Nevada	37	11	3	39	49
New Hampshire	26	8	3	41	67
New Jersey	87	0	42	54	360
New Mexico	36	25	7	69	70
New York	236	22	108	218	660
North Carolina	123	28	21	166	406
North Dakota	48	36	6	35	88
Ohio	179	17	62	383	882
Oklahoma	133	58	13	199	246
Oregon	59	24	9	61	125
Pennsylvania	224	29	85	325	759
Rhode Island	13	0	5	25	101
South Carolina	67	7	8	78	174
South Dakota	59	37	4	48	89
Tennessee	126	21	16	158	274
Texas	416	100	64	944	1,022
Utah	44	20	6	44	78
Vermont	15	9	1	13	42
Virginia	93	22	21	158	227
Washington	75	27	19	63	267
West Virginia	51	30	13	71	111
Wisconsin	133	27	26	151	369
Wyoming	23	25	2	38	34
Total	5,294	1,379	1,124	7,426	14,829

1. Medicare participating hospitals in 2000 (Office of Strategic Planning, HCFA)

2. Medicare participating hospitals with special rural classifications in 2000 (Sheps Center for Health Services Research, UNC-Cha

3. Teaching hospitals receiving Medicare indirect medical education (IME) payments in 2000 (Office of Strategic Planning, HCFA)

4. Medicare participating home health agencies in 2000 (Office of Strategic Planning, HCFA)

5. Medicare participating skilled nursing facilities in 2000 (Office of Strategic Planning, HCFA)

HOW PEOPLE IN ALABAMA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 440 of the wealthiest families in Alabama would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Alabama is \$342,000.
 - All 669,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Alabama would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Alabama, whose average income is \$17,800.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN ALABAMA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Alabama.** Only 19% of Alabama firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$135 per month in Alabama, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Alabama.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Alabama.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 108 hospitals (15 rural hospitals and 19 teaching hospitals), 140 home health agencies, 220 nursing homes, and other providers in Alabama. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN ALASKA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 50 of the wealthiest families in Alaska would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Alaska is \$87,000.
 - All 38,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Alaska would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Alaska, whose average income is \$26,600.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN ALASKA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Alaska.** Only 22 percent of firms nationwide offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$131 per month in Alaska, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Alaska.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Alaska.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 18 hospitals (14 rural hospitals), 17 home health agencies, 15 nursing homes, and other providers in Alaska. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN ARIZONA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 670 of the wealthiest families in Arizona would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Arizona is \$398,000.
 - All 651,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Arizona would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Arizona, whose average income is \$21,100.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN ARIZONA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Arizona.** Only 22% of Arizona firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Arizona.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Arizona.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 67 hospitals (21 rural hospitals and 14 teaching hospitals), 76 home health agencies, 154 nursing homes, and other providers in Arizona. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN ARKANSAS BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 250 of the wealthiest families in Arkansas would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Arkansas is \$413,000.
 - All 433,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Arkansas would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Arkansas, whose average income is \$14,500.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN ARKANSAS

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Arkansas.** Only 14% of Arkansas firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$193 per month in Arkansas, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Arkansas.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Arkansas.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 92 hospitals (38 rural hospitals and 10 teaching hospitals), 185 home health agencies, 190 nursing homes, and other providers in Arkansas. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN CALIFORNIA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 6,110 of the wealthiest families in California would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in California is \$436,000.
 - All 3,783,000 Medicare beneficiaries in California would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in California, whose average income is \$20,900.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN CALIFORNIA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in California.** Only 19% of California firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in California.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in California.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 421 hospitals (43 rural hospitals and 101 teaching hospitals), 589 home health agencies, 1,278 nursing homes, and other providers in California. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN COLORADO BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

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- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 300 of the wealthiest families in Colorado would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Colorado is \$397,000.
 - All 451,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Colorado would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Colorado, whose average income is \$22,400.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN COLORADO

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Colorado.** Only 25% of Colorado firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$155 per month in Colorado, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Colorado.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Colorado.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 73 hospitals (36 rural hospitals and 21 teaching hospitals), 140 home health agencies, 203 nursing homes, and other providers in Colorado. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN CONNECTICUT BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 880 of the wealthiest families in Connecticut would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Connecticut is \$372,000.
 - All 510,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Connecticut would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Connecticut, whose average income is \$22,300.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN CONNECTICUT

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Connecticut.** Only 24% of Connecticut firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$230 per month in Connecticut, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Connecticut.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Connecticut.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 44 hospitals (2 rural hospitals and 18 teaching hospitals), 84 home health agencies, 250 nursing homes, and other providers in Connecticut. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN **DELAWARE** BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 110 of the wealthiest families in Delaware would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Delaware is \$682,000.
 - All 108,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Delaware would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Delaware, whose average income is \$20,900.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN DELAWARE

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Delaware.** Only 22 percent of firms nationwide offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$147 per month in Delaware, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Delaware.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Delaware.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 8 hospitals (2 teaching hospitals), 16 home health agencies, 36 nursing homes, and other providers in Delaware. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 200 of the wealthiest families in Washington, D.C. would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in D.C. is \$495,000.
 - All 76,000 Medicare beneficiaries in the District of Columbia would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Washington, D.C., whose average income is \$19,400.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN D.C.

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in the District of Columbia.** Only 22% of firms nationwide offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Washington, D.C.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Washington, D.C.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 10 hospitals (8 teaching hospitals), 17 home health agencies, 19 nursing homes, and other providers in the District of Columbia. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN **FLORIDA** BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 4,280 of the wealthiest families in Florida would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Florida is \$434,000.
 - All 2,761,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Florida would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Florida, whose average income is \$18,600.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN FLORIDA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Florida.** Only 20% of Florida firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$199 per month in Florida, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Florida.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Florida.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 224 hospitals (19 rural hospitals and 44 teaching hospitals), 332 home health agencies, 727 nursing homes, and other providers in Florida. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN **GEORGIA** BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 630 of the wealthiest families in Georgia would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Georgia is \$379,000.
 - All 885,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Georgia would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Georgia, whose average income is \$17,900.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN GEORGIA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Georgia.** Only 24% of Georgia firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$249 per month in Georgia, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Georgia.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Georgia.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 161 hospitals (28 rural hospitals and 15 teaching hospitals), 101 home health agencies, 327 nursing homes, and other providers in Georgia. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN HAWAII BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 190 of the wealthiest families in Hawaii would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Hawaii is \$463,000.
 - All 159,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Hawaii would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Hawaii, whose average income is \$17,500.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN HAWAII

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Hawaii.** Only 29% of Hawaii firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Hawaii.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Hawaii.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 22 hospitals (10 rural hospitals and 6 teaching hospitals), 20 home health agencies, 41 nursing homes, and other providers in Hawaii. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN IDAHO BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 80 of the wealthiest families in Idaho would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Idaho is \$444,000.
 - All 159,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Idaho would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Idaho, whose average income is \$17,200.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN IDAHO

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Idaho.** Only 22 percent of firms nationwide offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Idaho.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Idaho.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 45 hospitals (23 rural hospitals and 2 teaching hospitals), 56 home health agencies, 82 nursing homes, and other providers in Idaho. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN ILLINOIS BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 2,500 of the wealthiest families in Illinois would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Illinois is \$351,000.
 - All 1,626,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Illinois would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Illinois, whose average income is \$17,800.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN ILLINOIS

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Illinois.** Only 25% of Illinois firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$146 per month in Illinois, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Illinois.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Illinois.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 196 hospitals (40 rural hospitals and 62 teaching hospitals), 301 home health agencies, 658 nursing homes, and other providers in Illinois. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN INDIANA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 820 of the wealthiest families in Indiana would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Indiana is \$305,000.
 - All 841,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Indiana would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Indiana, whose average income is \$18,300.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN INDIANA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Indiana.** Only 21% of Indiana firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Indiana.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Indiana.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 141 hospitals (14 rural hospitals and 21 teaching hospitals), 186 home health agencies, 504 nursing homes, and other providers in Indiana. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN IOWA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 650 of the wealthiest families in Iowa would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Iowa is \$172,000.
 - All 476,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Iowa would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Iowa, whose average income is \$18,900.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN IOWA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Iowa.** Only 17% of Iowa firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$123 per month in Iowa, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Iowa.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Iowa.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 116 hospitals (62 rural hospitals and 18 teaching hospitals), 187 home health agencies, 293 nursing homes, and other providers in Iowa. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN KANSAS BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 390 of the wealthiest families in Kansas would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Kansas is \$380,000.
 - All 389,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Kansas would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Kansas, whose average income is \$20,700.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN KANSAS

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Kansas.** Only 21% of Kansas firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$143 per month in Kansas, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Kansas.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Kansas.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 141 hospitals (84 rural hospitals and 14 teaching hospitals), 156 home health agencies, 267 nursing homes, and other providers in Kansas. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN **KENTUCKY** BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 350 of the wealthiest families in Kentucky would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Kentucky is \$649,000.
 - All 610,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Kentucky would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Kentucky, whose average income is \$18,600.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN KENTUCKY

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Kentucky.** Only 20% of Kentucky firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Kentucky.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Kentucky.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 107 hospitals (28 rural hospitals and 10 teaching hospitals), 111 home health agencies, 306 nursing homes, and other providers in Kentucky. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN LOUISIANA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 530 of the wealthiest families in Louisiana would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Louisiana is \$398,000.
 - All 596,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Louisiana would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Louisiana, whose average income is \$15,000.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN LOUISIANA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Louisiana.** Only 24% of Louisiana firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$178 per month in Louisiana, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Louisiana.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Louisiana.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 147 hospitals (21 rural hospitals and 20 teaching hospitals), 272 home health agencies, 210 nursing homes, and other providers in Louisiana. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN MAINE BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 220 of the wealthiest families in Maine would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Maine is \$644,000.
 - All 211,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Maine would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Maine, whose average income is \$16,300.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN MAINE

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Maine.** Only 20% of Maine firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$222 per month in Maine, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Maine.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Maine.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 33 hospitals (16 rural hospitals and 5 teaching hospitals), 36 home health agencies, 126 nursing homes, and other providers in Maine. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN **MARYLAND** BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 1,080 of the wealthiest families in Maryland would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Maryland is \$290,000.
 - All 628,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Maryland would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Maryland, whose average income is \$23,600.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN MARYLAND

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Maryland.** Only 23% of Maryland firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Maryland.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Maryland.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 53 hospitals (20 teaching hospitals), 53 home health agencies, 243 nursing homes, and other providers in Maryland. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN MASSACHUSETTS BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 1,020 of the wealthiest families in Massachusetts would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Massachusetts is \$400,000.
 - All 951,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Massachusetts would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Massachusetts, whose average income is \$19,600.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN MASSACHUSETTS

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Massachusetts.** Only 25% of Massachusetts firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Massachusetts.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Massachusetts.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 96 hospitals (3 rural hospitals and 38 teaching hospitals), 149 home health agencies, 514 nursing homes, and other providers in Massachusetts. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN MICHIGAN BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 1,120 of the wealthiest families in Michigan would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Michigan is \$283,000.
 - All 1,379,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Michigan would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Michigan, whose average income is \$18,700.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN MICHIGAN

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Michigan.** Only 28% of Michigan firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$179 per month in Michigan, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Michigan.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Michigan.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 150 hospitals (37 rural hospitals and 52 teaching hospitals), 195 home health agencies, 383 nursing homes, and other providers in Michigan. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN MINNESOTA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 610 of the wealthiest families in Minnesota would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Minnesota is \$361,000.
 - All 644,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Minnesota would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Minnesota, whose average income is \$18,000.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN MINNESOTA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Minnesota.** Only 19% of Minnesota firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Minnesota.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Minnesota.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 147 hospitals (39 rural hospitals and 14 teaching hospitals), 250 home health agencies, 420 nursing homes, and other providers in Minnesota. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN **MISSISSIPPI** BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 200 of the wealthiest families in Mississippi would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Mississippi is \$242,000.
 - All 411,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Mississippi would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Mississippi, whose average income is \$15,400.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN MISSISSIPPI

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Mississippi.** Only 17% of Mississippi firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$147 per month in Mississippi, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Mississippi.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Mississippi.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 89 hospitals (41 rural hospitals and 2 teaching hospitals), 63 home health agencies, 135 nursing homes, and other providers in Mississippi. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN MISSOURI BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 990 of the wealthiest families in Missouri would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Missouri is \$330,000.
 - All 850,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Missouri would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Missouri, whose average income is \$19,500.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN MISSOURI

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Missouri.** Only 18% of Missouri firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$150 per month in Missouri, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Missouri.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Missouri.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 134 hospitals (53 rural hospitals and 32 teaching hospitals), 185 home health agencies, 457 nursing homes, and other providers in Missouri. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN MONTANA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 150 of the wealthiest families in Montana would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Montana is \$149,000.
 - All 134,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Montana would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Montana, whose average income is \$17,900.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN MONTANA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Montana.** Only 22 percent of firms nationwide offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$126 per month in Montana, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Montana.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Montana.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 58 hospitals (51 rural hospitals and 2 teaching hospitals), 54 home health agencies, 101 nursing homes, and other providers in Montana. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN NEBRASKA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 210 of the wealthiest families in Nebraska would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Nebraska is \$306,000.
 - All 251,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Nebraska would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Nebraska, whose average income is \$16,900.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN NEBRASKA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Nebraska.** Only 22% of Nebraska firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$126 per month in Nebraska, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Nebraska.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Nebraska.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 90 hospitals (58 rural hospitals and 10 teaching hospitals), 74 home health agencies, 170 nursing homes, and other providers in Nebraska. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN NEVADA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 310 of the wealthiest families in Nevada would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Nevada is \$364,000.
 - All 223,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Nevada would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Nevada, whose average income is \$19,600.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN NEVADA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Nevada.** Only 20% of Nevada firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$162 per month in Nevada, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Nevada.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Nevada.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 37 hospitals (11 rural hospitals and 3 teaching hospitals), 39 home health agencies, 49 nursing homes, and other providers in Nevada. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN **NEW HAMPSHIRE** BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 200 of the wealthiest families in New Hampshire would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in New Hampshire is \$323,000.
 - All 164,000 Medicare beneficiaries in New Hampshire would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in New Hampshire, whose average income is \$18,600.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in New Hampshire.** Only 22 percent of firms nationwide offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$125 per month in New Hampshire, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in New Hampshire.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in New Hampshire.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 26 hospitals (8 rural hospitals and 3 teaching hospitals), 41 home health agencies, 67 nursing homes, and other providers in New Hampshire. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN NEW JERSEY BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 1,880 of the wealthiest families in New Jersey would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in New Jersey is \$339,000.
 - All 1,188,000 Medicare beneficiaries in New Jersey would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in New Jersey, whose average income is \$20,500.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN NEW JERSEY

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in New Jersey.** Only 20% of New Jersey firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in New Jersey.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in New Jersey.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 87 hospitals (42 teaching hospitals), 54 home health agencies, 360 nursing homes, and other providers in New Jersey. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN **NEW MEXICO** BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 150 of the wealthiest families in New Mexico would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in New Mexico is \$327,000.
 - All 225,000 Medicare beneficiaries in New Mexico would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in New Mexico, whose average income is \$19,300.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN NEW MEXICO

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in New Mexico.** Only 20% of New Mexico firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$175 per month in New Mexico, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in New Mexico.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in New Mexico.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 36 hospitals (25 rural hospitals and 7 teaching hospitals), 69 home health agencies, 70 nursing homes, and other providers in New Mexico. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN **NEW YORK** BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 3,380 of the wealthiest families in New York would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in New York is \$506,000.
 - All 2,666,000 Medicare beneficiaries in New York would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in New York, whose average income is \$21,200.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN NEW YORK

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in New York.** Only 24% of New York firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$193 per month in New York, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in New York.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in New York.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 236 hospitals (22 rural hospitals and 108 teaching hospitals), 218 home health agencies, 660 nursing homes, and other providers in New York. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN NORTH CAROLINA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 720 of the wealthiest families in North Carolina would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in North Carolina is \$371,000.
 - All 1,095,000 Medicare beneficiaries in North Carolina would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in North Carolina, whose average income is \$17,800.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN NORTH CAROLINA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in North Carolina.** Only 22% of North Carolina firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$139 per month in North Carolina, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in North Carolina.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in North Carolina.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 123 hospitals (28 rural hospitals and 21 teaching hospitals), 166 home health agencies, 406 nursing homes, and other providers in North Carolina. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN NORTH DAKOTA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 50 of the wealthiest families in North Dakota would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in North Dakota is \$286,000.
 - All 103,000 Medicare beneficiaries in North Dakota would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in North Dakota, whose average income is \$17,200.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN NORTH DAKOTA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in North Dakota.** Only 22 percent of firms nationwide offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in North Dakota.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in North Dakota.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 48 hospitals (36 rural hospitals and 6 teaching hospitals), 35 home health agencies, 88 nursing homes, and other providers in North Dakota. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN OHIO BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 1,610 of the wealthiest families in Ohio would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Ohio is \$347,000.
 - All 1,689,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Ohio would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Ohio, whose average income is \$17,700.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN OHIO

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Ohio.** Only 28% of Ohio firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$146 per month in Ohio, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Ohio.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Ohio.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 179 hospitals (17 rural hospitals and 62 teaching hospitals), 383 home health agencies, 882 nursing homes, and other providers in Ohio. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN OKLAHOMA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 520 of the wealthiest families in Oklahoma would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Oklahoma is \$231,000.
 - All 500,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Oklahoma would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Oklahoma, whose average income is \$19,100.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN OKLAHOMA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Oklahoma.** Only 22% of Oklahoma firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$129 per month in Oklahoma, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Oklahoma.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Oklahoma.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 133 hospitals (58 rural hospitals and 13 teaching hospitals), 199 home health agencies, 246 nursing homes, and other providers in Oklahoma. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN OREGON BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 410 of the wealthiest families in Oregon would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Oregon is \$363,000.
 - All 481,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Oregon would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Oregon, whose average income is \$18,800.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN OREGON

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Oregon.** Only 21% of Oregon firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$131 per month in Oregon, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Oregon.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Oregon.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 59 hospitals (24 rural hospitals and 9 teaching hospitals), 61 home health agencies, 125 nursing homes, and other providers in Oregon. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN PENNSYLVANIA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 1,980 of the wealthiest families in Pennsylvania would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Pennsylvania is \$348,000.
 - All 2,089,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Pennsylvania would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Pennsylvania, whose average income is \$18,500.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN PENNSYLVANIA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Pennsylvania.** Only 22% of Pennsylvania firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$140 per month in Pennsylvania, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Pennsylvania.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Pennsylvania.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 224 hospitals (29 rural hospitals and 85 teaching hospitals), 325 home health agencies, 759 nursing homes, and other providers in Pennsylvania. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN RHODE ISLAND BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 260 of the wealthiest families in Rhode Island would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Rhode Island is \$247,000.
 - All 170,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Rhode Island would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Rhode Island, whose average income is \$15,500.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN RHODE ISLAND

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Rhode Island.** Only 22 percent of firms nationwide offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$130 per month in Rhode Island, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Rhode Island.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Rhode Island.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 13 hospitals (5 teaching hospitals), 25 home health agencies, 101 nursing homes, and other providers in Rhode Island. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN SOUTH CAROLINA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 450 of the wealthiest families in South Carolina would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in South Carolina is \$244,000.
 - All 545,000 Medicare beneficiaries in South Carolina would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in South Carolina, whose average income is \$15,400.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in South Carolina.** Only 21% of South Carolina firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$155 per month in South Carolina, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in South Carolina.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in South Carolina.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 67 hospitals (7 rural hospitals and 8 teaching hospitals), 78 home health agencies, 174 nursing homes, and other providers in South Carolina. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN SOUTH DAKOTA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 100 of the wealthiest families in South Dakota would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in South Dakota is \$118,000.
 - All 118,000 Medicare beneficiaries in South Dakota would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in South Dakota, whose average income is \$16,400.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in South Dakota.** Only 22 percent of firms nationwide offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$134 per month in South Dakota, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in South Dakota.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in South Dakota.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 59 hospitals (37 rural hospitals and 4 teaching hospitals), 48 home health agencies, 89 nursing homes, and other providers in South Dakota. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN **TENNESSEE** BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 610 of the wealthiest families in Tennessee would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Tennessee is \$298,000.
 - All 807,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Tennessee would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Tennessee, whose average income is \$16,300.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN TENNESSEE

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Tennessee.** Only 24% of Tennessee firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Tennessee.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Tennessee.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 126 hospitals (21 rural hospitals and 16 teaching hospitals), 158 home health agencies, 274 nursing homes, and other providers in Tennessee. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN TEXAS BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 1,960 of the wealthiest families in Texas would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Texas is \$499,000.
 - All 2,196,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Texas would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Texas, whose average income is \$18,700.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN TEXAS

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Texas.** Only 19% of Texas firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$150 per month in Texas, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Texas.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Texas.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 416 hospitals (100 rural hospitals and 64 teaching hospitals), 944 home health agencies, 1,022 nursing homes, and other providers in Texas. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN UTAH BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 140 of the wealthiest families in Utah would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Utah is \$308,000.
 - All 198,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Utah would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Utah, whose average income is \$20,800.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN UTAH

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Utah.** Only 21% of Utah firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$112 per month in Utah, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Utah.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Utah.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 44 hospitals (20 rural hospitals and 6 teaching hospitals), 44 home health agencies, 78 nursing homes, and other providers in Utah. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN VERMONT BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 190 of the wealthiest families in Vermont would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Vermont is \$309,000.
 - All 86,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Vermont would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Vermont, whose average income is \$17,400.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN VERMONT

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Vermont.** Only 22 percent of firms nationwide offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Vermont.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Vermont.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 15 hospitals (9 rural hospitals and 1 teaching hospitals), 13 home health agencies, 42 nursing homes, and other providers in Vermont. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN VIRGINIA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 1,120 of the wealthiest families in Virginia would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Virginia is \$362,000.
 - All 864,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Virginia would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Virginia, whose average income is \$20,200.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN VIRGINIA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Virginia.** Only 23% of Virginia firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$107 per month in Virginia, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Virginia.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Virginia.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 93 hospitals (22 rural hospitals and 21 teaching hospitals), 158 home health agencies, 227 nursing homes, and other providers in Virginia. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 870 of the wealthiest families in Washington would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Washington is \$376,000.
 - All 718,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Washington would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Washington, whose average income is \$21,700.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Washington.** Only 17% of Washington firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$191 per month in Washington, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Washington.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Washington.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 75 hospitals (27 rural hospitals and 19 teaching hospitals), 63 home health agencies, 267 nursing homes, and other providers in Washington. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN WEST VIRGINIA BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 200 of the wealthiest families in West Virginia would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in West Virginia is \$274,000.
 - All 335,000 Medicare beneficiaries in West Virginia would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in West Virginia, whose average income is \$16,300.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN WEST VIRGINIA

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in West Virginia.** Only 19% of West Virginia firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$162 per month in West Virginia, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in West Virginia.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in West Virginia.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 51 hospitals (30 rural hospitals and 13 teaching hospitals), 71 home health agencies, 111 nursing homes, and other providers in West Virginia. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN WISCONSIN BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 630 of the wealthiest families in Wisconsin would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Wisconsin is \$421,000.
 - All 775,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Wisconsin would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Wisconsin, whose average income is \$19,000.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN WISCONSIN

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Wisconsin.** Only 23% of Wisconsin firms offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$164 per month nationally, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Wisconsin.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Wisconsin.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 133 hospitals (27 rural hospitals and 26 teaching hospitals), 151 home health agencies, 369 nursing homes, and other providers in Wisconsin. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.

HOW PEOPLE IN **WYOMING** BENEFIT FROM THE CLINTON-GORE AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES. In the remaining days of this Congress, Americans are faced with a clear choice:

- **Republican leadership priority: Large, irresponsible tax cuts.** The tax cuts passed by the 106th Congress, in this year and last, would drain more than \$1.8 trillion over 10 years from the surplus. This could erase the entire on-budget surplus, based on Congressional Budget Office's projections, or plunge the nation back into on-budget deficit, according to the Administration's more conservative estimates. Either way, this approach leaves no money for key priorities like a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Moreover, it is weighted towards the wealthy, with the top 1 percent of Americans benefiting as much as the bottom 80 percent combined. As a result, despite their large and fiscally irresponsible cost, these tax cuts provide little for middle-class families.

- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats' priority: Investments in Medicare and targeted tax cuts for working families.** Democrats are committed to a budget that includes: a voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit; targeted tax relief including fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief, education and long-term care tax credits; taking Medicare Part A off-budget and extending the Trust Fund to 2030; and paying off the national debt by 2012.
- **Republican estate tax repeal alone costs as much as the President's entire prescription drug plan when phased-in but helps millions fewer Americans.**
 - Only 30 of the wealthiest families in Wyoming would reap the benefits of the repeal of the estate tax. The average benefit for each estate in Wyoming is \$333,000.
 - All 64,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Wyoming would have the option of Medicare prescription drug coverage under the Democrats' plan. This will help seniors in Wyoming, whose average income is \$18,300.

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT TO PEOPLE IN WYOMING

- **Access to prescription drugs for the elderly is limited in Wyoming.** Only 22 percent of firms nationwide offer retiree health insurance. Private Medigap insurance with a drug benefit has an average premium of \$149 per month in Wyoming, which is too expensive for many. And, access to Medicare managed care is declining. This is why the Republican plan to rely on private insurers to offer drug coverage will not work in Wyoming.
- **Democrats have a strong plan to provide affordable, accesible, meaningful Medicare prescription drug coverage.** This plan would, for a modest premium, cover half of prescription drug costs up to \$5,000 and limit out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions to \$4,000 per year. It ensures access to discounts, needed medications, and pharmacies.
- **Clinton-Gore and Democrats also propose investing tens of billions of dollars in needed payment increases to health care providers in Wyoming.** Medicare and Medicaid payments are vital to 23 hospitals (25 rural hospitals and 2 teaching hospitals), 38 home health agencies, 34 nursing homes, and other providers in Wyoming. These Medicare and Medicaid payment increases are complemented by major new investments in health insurance coverage for children, parents, people 55 to 65 years old, workers in between jobs, and legal immigrants.