

## **GOP Summer Break: While Americans Ask for Jobs, Republicans Ignore Jobs, Push Partisan Bills that Hurt Economy**

Last week, House Republicans unveiled a summer legislative agenda that brings forward partisan bills that do not create jobs and will result in higher taxes for the middle class because of their refusal to ensure the wealthy pay their fair share.

Rather than working with Democrats on legislation that Americans have been asking for – such as job creation legislation, extending middle class tax breaks without holding them hostage to tax cuts for the wealthy, lowering student loan interest rates, or discussing responsible deficit reduction – House Republicans are wasting time on controversial bills that will not go anywhere, and have nothing to do with jobs.

### **Here's just a few of the items missing from the GOP Agenda:**

- **Surface Transportation Reauthorization** – A much needed bill that will restore certainty to our transportation industry and create jobs with important investments in infrastructure.
- **Student Loan Interest Rates** – Legislation to stop student loan interest rates from doubling on July 1, affecting 7.4 million students and costing them \$6 billion over the next decade.
- **Make It In America plan** – Democratic proposals that strengthen manufacturing, support small businesses, and increase competitiveness so that American companies can grow and create jobs here in the US.
- **Deficit Reduction** – Republicans have failed to propose a big, bold and balanced plan to reduce our deficit, instead choosing confrontation over consensus.

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### **Instead, here's what Republicans have prioritized for the coming months:**

#### **Repealing the Affordable Care Act**

- Repealing the Affordable Care Act would eliminate new patient protections, put insurance companies back in control where they can once again discriminate against patients and arbitrarily limit coverage, accelerate the insolvency of the Medicare Trust Fund by eight years, raise health care costs for seniors, and eliminate health care tax credits available to approximately four million small businesses.
- The Congressional Budget Office found that the Affordable Care Act will reduce the deficit by \$124 billion over the next 10 years and more than \$1 trillion over the following 10 years.

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## **Removing Important Government Regulations**

- H.R. 4078, the Regulatory Freeze for Jobs Act, H.R. 4607, the Midnight Rule Relief Act, and H.R. 3862, the Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act – none of which have a significant impact on jobs.
- According to the Washington Post, “Economists who have studied the matter say that there is little evidence that regulations cause massive job loss in the economy, and that rolling them back would not lead to a boom in job creation.” [[11/13/11](#)]

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## **Pushing Production-Only Energy Bills**

- Republicans are planning to bring up bills that they claim will remove impediments to domestic oil, natural gas, and fuels production.

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Here are the facts:

- In 2011, American oil production reached the highest level in nearly a decade and natural gas production reached an all-time high.
- Since President Obama took office, America’s dependence on foreign oil has decreased every year. In 2010, the United States imported less than half of all oil consumed – a first in 13 years.

**House Republicans are refusing to take action on legislation that Americans need the most to restore our economy – to create jobs, extend tax rates for the middle class and not the wealthy, and a big, balanced plan to reduce the deficit.**