

JOHN McCAIN, Not As Good As He May Sound

McCain prides himself on being a “straight talker.” However, what he says is not usually beneficial to working families and his record has certainly not supported any rhetoric suggesting he might be interested in the difficulties working families face every day. He has fought against workers’ rights, making it harder to bargain for better wages. He is willing to fatten the pockets of the wealthy while leaving low-wage earners behind. McCain has shipped our jobs overseas but opposed job creation efforts here at home and will leave workers out on their own to try and fight the insurance companies for decent health care. Working families need a President that understand their concerns and will fight to fix the skewed balance that favors the top 1% at the expense of the rest.

McCain Has Consistently Voted To Weaken Workers’ Rights And Their Freedom To Bargain Collectively. McCain voted against the Employee Free Choice Act, the most important recent legislation to level the playing field for workers trying to form unions and bargain for better wages and benefits. He voted for a National Right-to-Work for Less law that would have federally mandated a ban on union security agreements, making it harder for workers to bargain for better wages and benefits and opposed granting TSA screeners collective bargaining rights. [HR 800, Vote# 227, 6/26/07; S. 1788 Vote #188, 7/10/96; S.4, Vote# 64, 3/7/07]

McCain Will Not Work Towards Universal Health Care. McCain’s health care plan will send working families out into the private market for health care to fend for themselves. It will chip away at employer-based health care making it harder for union members to maintain high quality health care in their bargaining agreements and will not solve the major health care crisis in this country – that of needing to help the 47 million uninsured get covered. His plan will also undercut state efforts to elevate the quality of care required in health plans in their state. [Kaiser Family Foundation Presidential Candidate Forum, 10/31/07; *New York Sun*, 3/7/2006; Association of Health Care Journalists, <http://www.healthjournalism.org/secondarypagedetails.php?id=97>) (*National Journal*, “Out-of-Pocket Expenses,” 10/27/2007; *Wall Street Journal*, 10/11/2007; National Conference of State Legislatures, <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/hmolaws.htm>; Council For Affordable Health Insurance, http://www.cahi.org/cahi_contents/resources/pdf/MandatePub2007.pdf; *Newsday*, August 1, 2007; *Los Angeles Times*, 11/20/2007, http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-gophealth20nov20,0,747551_story?page=2&coll=lahome-center)

- **And His Record Reflects A Habit of Cutting Vital Health Care Programs.** McCain has voted time and again to cut vital programs and for initiatives that would result in lower quality care. He supports health savings accounts that shift costs and risks to working families, supported Pres. Bush’s efforts to gut Medicaid by \$14 billion, and voted to raise the eligibility age for Medicare and cut funding from it. [S. 1028, Vote #72, 4/18/96; McCain speech at the Des Moines Rotary Lunch, 10/11/2007; S947, Vote 115, 6/25/1997; S947, Vote 112, 6/24/1997; HconRes68, Vote 86, 4/15/1999; SconRes20, Vote 59, 3/24/1999; *Boston Globe*, 3/26/1999; *Washington Post*, 3/26/1999; DPC Press Release, “A ‘Groundhog Day’ Report,” 2/2/2000; *New York Times*, 4/15/1999; S1932, Vote 363, 12/21/2005; *Congressional Quarterly*, 12/26/2005; S1932 Vote 363, 12/21/2005; S Con. Res. 18, Vote# 9, 3/17/05; SconRes18, Vote 58, 3/17/2005]

McCain’s Record Undercuts Our Wages And Benefits, While Giving The Wealthy A Break On Their Taxes. McCain voted with the Republicans to stall a clean minimum wage increase for working families, but voted for Bush’s tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans. He opposed applying Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements to federal disaster areas and voted against protecting overtime eligibility for 6 million workers. [HR 2, Vote #23, 1/24/07; Vote #24, 1/24/07; Vote #25, 1/25/07; Vote #, 37, 1/31/07; Vote #39,

1/31/07; Vote# 42, 1/31/07; S. 2766, Vote #179, 6/21/06; S. 256, Vote #26, 3/7/05; S. 2020, Vote #26, 11/18/05; S. 1650, Vote# 320, 10/7/99; S 1637, Vote# 79, 5/4/04]

McCain Is A “Free Trader” Who Supports Expanding Unfair Trade Deals That Send Our Jobs Overseas. McCain has a long history of supporting bad trade agreements with little to no labor protections, declaring, “If I were President, I would negotiate a free trade agreement with almost any country...” The pro-business Club for Growth has labeled him a “strong proponent of free trade” and he has voted for every unfair trade agreement that has come up during his time in Congress. He continued to support expanding NAFTA long after its effects had been felt and has opposed measures, like Buy America requirements and elimination of tax credits for outsourcers, intended to help stem the flow of jobs last due to these trade agreements. [Speech to the National Press Club, 5/20/1999; Club for Growth White Paper, 3/12/07; *India Abroad* (New York Edition), 11/30/07; Statement in the Senate on Drug Free Borders, 3/18/1999; S. 33569, Vote #190, 6/29/06; S 1307, Vote# 170, 6/30/05; HR 2739, Vote# 318, 7/31/03; HR 2738, Vote# 319, 7/31/03; HR 3009, Vote #115, 5/16/02, Vote #117, 5/21/02, Vote #207, 8/1/02; S. 1269, Vote #292, 11/4/97; H.R. 434, Vote #353, 11/3/99; H.R. 4444, Vote #251, 9/19/00; HR 3450, Vote #395, 11/20/93; S.1637, Vote #83, 5/5/04; S.2400, Vote #135, 6/22/04; S.1050, Vote #191, 5/21/03; H.R. 2299, Vote #252, 7/26/01; H.R. 975, Vote #178, 6/22/99]

McCain Voted To Allow The Outsourcing And Privatization Of Our Jobs. Telling working families in Michigan and South Carolina, “there are some jobs that aren’t coming back,” McCain belied his part in helping eliminate those jobs. He voted to allow overseas outsourcing of government contracts, supported Bush’s efforts to privatize federal jobs, and previously voted to allow the Department of Homeland Security to contract out the work of the Citizenship and Immigration Services. [GOP Debate, Myrtle Beach, FNC, 1/10/08; S. 1637, Vote #32, 3/4/04; HR 5631, Vote# 234, 9/6/06; HR. 4567, Vote# 168, 9/8/04]

McCain Opposed Efforts To Spur Job Creation. McCain’s obsession with reducing so-called “pork” has led him to oppose important construction projects that create jobs and make much needed repairs to infrastructure and our kid’s schools. He voted against \$1.6 billion in school construction funding to help schools districts repair their most dilapidated public school buildings and against a six-year reauthorization of the federal highway and transit program that created 1 million jobs protected by Davis Bacon prevailing wage standards. [S 1, Vote# 108, 5/16/01; HR. 3, Vote# 220, 7/29/05]

McCain Claims He Will Help Unemployed Workers Weather The Storm But Has Voted Against Programs Necessary To Do So. McCain has claimed that he is committed to helping workers get retrained so that they can compete for good jobs. However, he has proposed to take money away from retraining programs to pay for a flawed wage insurance plan. McCain voted against a pilot program to provide low-interest loans to workers in job training or assistance programs to help them make ends meet while they learn the skills to get the jobs they need and voted against extending unemployment insurance benefits in 2003. [GOP Debate, Myrtle Beach, FNC, 1/10/08; Detroit Free Press, 12/20/07; HR. 3009, Vote # 119, 5/21/02; S 1054, Vote# 152, 5/15/03]

John McCain Will Continue The Harmful Policies Of The Current Administration, Not Bring A Much-Needed Change Of Direction