

McCain Admits He's Wrong For Working Families

Responding to the AFL-CIO's efforts to educate union members about McCain's real record on working families issues, McCain told Fox News that unions were right to oppose him.

"I understand why the AFL-CIO and maybe other unions may oppose my free market, uh, less regulation, um, right to work. I think we have honest differences of opinion. I respect those labor unions but I'm sure that those differences are very intense and very real."

[John McCain in New Hampshire, Fox News, 3/12/08]

Our "Differences Of Opinion": Unions Fight For Working Families, McCain Does Not

McCain Doesn't Get The Economy; Working Families Do

McCain: I Never Really Understood Economics. McCain said, "The issue of economics is something that I've really never understood as well as I should. I understand the basics, the fundamentals, the vision, all that kind of stuff." [Boston Globe Political Intelligence Blog, 12/18/07; "The Swamp," Chicago Tribune, 12/18/07]

McCain: We Are NOT Headed Into a Recession. McCain said, "I don't believe we're headed into a recession. I believe the fundamentals of this economy are strong, and I believe they will remain strong." [GOP Debate, Myrtle Beach, FNC, 1/10/08]

McCain Still Believes "The Fundamentals Of Our Economy Are Strong." McCain has said over and over again that he believes "the fundamentals of our economy are still strong" even when faced with job loss numbers, record foreclosures, and extreme gas prices. [West Palm Beach Town Hall, 1/24/08; Face the Nation, 2/3/08; Town Hall at Dell in Texas, 2/29/08; 60 Minutes, 3/9/08]

McCain: 63,000 Lost Jobs "Not Terrible:" At a town hall in Atlanta McCain said "Today's unemployment figures are not good. They're not terrible, but they're not good." [McCain Town Hall, Atlanta, 3/7/08]

McCain Advocates "Free Market" Solutions That Send Jobs Overseas And Cost Working Families Money

McCain "Would Negotiate a Free Trade Agreement with Almost Any Country." "If I were President, I would negotiate a free trade agreement with almost any country willing to negotiate fairly with us." [Speech to the National Press Club, 5/20/1999]

McCain Thinks NAFTA Was a Good Idea And Supported Letting China Into The WTO. McCain voted for NAFTA and recently said, "I know NAFTA was a good idea..." He voted to allow China to enter the World Trade Organization, despite their history of workers' rights violations. [Des Moines Register and www.BigThink.com interview, 11/07; HR 3450, Vote #395, 11/20/93; H.R. 4444, Vote #251, 9/19/00]

- **NAFTA Resulted In A Loss of Over A Million Jobs.** From 1993 through 2004, the United States lost 1,015,290 jobs due to NAFTA. [Robert E. Scott and David Ratner, "NAFTA'S Cautionary Tale - Recent history suggests CAFTA could lead to further U.S. job displacement," Economic Policy Institute, 7/20/2005]

- **Rising Chinese Trade Deficits Resulted in 2.1 Million Displaced Jobs.** “The rise in the U.S. trade deficit with China between 1997 and 2006 has displaced production that could have supported 2,166,000...between 1997 and 2001, trade deficits displaced an average of 101,000 jobs per year...since China entered the WTO in 2001, job loss has increased to an average of 353,000 per year. U.S. jobs.” [“Costly Trade With China,” Economy Policy Institute, 10/9/07]

McCain Has Voted For Every Other Bad Trade Agreement That Has Come Up. McCain votes in support of any and all trade agreements regardless of their negative impacts on U.S. workers. He voted for CAFTA and trade agreements with Oman, Singapore, Chile, and Morocco, among others, as well as for fast-track bills to make it easier for the President to enact trade agreements without strong worker protections. [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; H.R. 434, Vote #353, 11/3/99; HR 3009, Vote #115, 5/16/02, Vote #117, 5/21/02, Vote #207, 8/1/02; S. 1269, Vote #292, 11/4/97]

McCain and The Lobbyists On His Campaign Helped Airbus Get A \$35 Billion Contract Over Boeing, An American and Union Company. McCain stepped in to make it easier for EADS/Airbus to get the contract for the Air Force refueling tankers over Boeing. Three of his campaign advisers lobbied for EADS and his campaign received \$28,000 from EADS execs, lobbyists, and employees after starting to speak out on EADS’ behalf. If Boeing had won the contract, it would have supported 44,000 good jobs in more than 40 states, many of which would have been union jobs. [Lobbyist Disclosure Act Database, accessed 3/11/08; Associated Press, 3/11/08; [Time.com, 3/11/08](#); OpenSecrets.org, accessed 3/12/08; [Mobile Register, 1/16/07](#); [Seattle Post Intelligencer, 3/7/08](#)]

McCain Wants Free Market Solution To Health Care: “I campaigned in New Hampshire against big government- mandated health care and for a free market solution to the problem of unavailable and unaffordable health care.” [Conservative Political Action Conference, 2/7/08]

McCain’s Plan Increases Costs And Creates A New Tax On Workers. McCain will make health care premiums part of taxable income, essentially creating a new tax on working families. His “tax credit” will not cover working families’ costs, equaling less than half the average health premium and leaving workers to pick up the difference, and will drive insurance costs up even further by promoting high deductible “HSA” plans. [Health 08.org, Forum, 10/31/07; Kaiser Family Foundation [Employer Health Benefits 2007 Annual Survey](#); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 9/20/06, 4/5/06]

McCain’s Plan Leaves Workers On Their Own In The Individual Market. McCain’s plan undermines employer-based health care and pushes workers into the private market to fight big insurance companies on their own. Insurance companies will be able to weed out workers with real health care needs, charge excessive premiums, and limit benefits. [Health 08.org Presidential Forum, 10/31/07; The Commonwealth Fund, 1/2008; CBPP, 7/31/07]

- **McCain’s Plan Particularly Hurts Retirees.** With workers left to fend for themselves in the open market, insurance companies will refuse coverage to people with pre-existing conditions. Retirees will have a particularly hard time getting health care on the open market because insurance companies will want only the healthiest people, driving costs up for everyone. [[Los Angeles Times, 11/20/07](#); The Commonwealth Fund, 6/2005]

McCain’s Health Care Plan Guts State Laws Designed to Protect Health Insurance Consumers. McCain’s Health Care plan would allow companies to offer national plans from the few states that don't

mandate that plans include certain services, such as emergency care. [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; [McCain's Campaign website](#), accessed 2/21/08]

State Mandates That Could Be Overridden Include:

- Emergency Room Care (currently required by 44 states)
- Direct Access to OB/GYN (44 states)
- Diabetes (47 States)
- Colorectal Cancer Screening (23 States)
- Mental Health Parity (45 States)
- Post-Mastectomy Breast Reconstruction (33 States)
- Off-Label Prescription Drug Use (36 States)
- Chiropractors (46 states)
- Clinical Trials (20 States)

[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]

McCain, Like Bush, Supports Shifting Health Care Costs And Risks To Workers. McCain voted for health savings accounts that would help the wealthy and healthy while driving up health care costs for working families. He has made health savings accounts a central part of his 2008 health care proposal. [S. 1028, Vote #72, 4/18/96; McCain speech at the Des Moines Rotary Lunch, 10/11/07]

McCain Opposes Our Freedom To Form Unions In Favor Of "Right To Work" for Less Laws

McCain Voted Against the Employee Free Choice Act But For A National Right-to-Work for Less Law. McCain voted against the Employee Free Choice Act, that would level the playing field for workers trying to form unions, and for a National Right-to-Work for Less law that would attempt to eliminate unions altogether. [HR 800, Vote# 227, 6/26/07; S. 1788 Vote #188, 7/10/96]

McCain Crossed a Writers Guild Picket Line to Appear on *The Tonight Show*. John McCain crossed the picket line of the Writers Guild of America in order to appear on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*. [[Think Progress](#), accessed 2/27/08]

Opposed Collective Bargaining Rights for Police and Fire Fighters. In 2001, McCain opposed a proposal to give collective bargaining rights to fire fighters and police officers employed by state and their political subdivision. In 2007, he did not co-sponsor the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act that would grant limited collective bargaining rights to fire fighters and police officers. [HR. 3061, Vote# 323, 11/6/01; S. 2123, 10/1/07; [IAFF](#)]

McCain Voted Against Collective Bargaining Rights for TSA Screeners. Senator John McCain voted against an amendment offered by Sen. Claire McCaskill, (D-MO) that would grant Transportation Security Administration (TSA) airport screeners limited collective bargaining rights, but would not allow them to strike or negotiate for higher pay. [S.4, Vote# 64, 3/7/07]

McCain Voted to Allow Employers to Hire Permanent Replacements During a Strike. McCain voted against ending debate on a motion to consider a bill that would bar employers from hiring permanent replacements for striking workers. [S. 55, Vote# 189, 7/13/94]