

New Direction for America

100 Hours Legislation

- Honest Leadership and Open Government
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Implementing 9/11 Commission's Recommendations
- Raising the Minimum Wage
- Promoting Life-Saving Stem Cell Research
- Cutting Interest Rates on Student Loans
- Requiring Medicare to Negotiate Lower Prescription Drug Prices
- Repealing Big Oil Subsidies/Investing in Renewable Fuels

Honest Leadership and Open Government

To ensure this Congress upholds the highest ethical standards, the ethics package begins to sever the connection between lobbyists and legislation, by banning gifts and travel from lobbyists, and ending the abuses connected to privately-funded congressional travel (including corporate jets). The rules package restores democracy in the House – committing to a fair and open process for amendments and an end to 2-day work weeks; curbing abuses of voting, guaranteeing time to read legislation, and opening up Conference Committees so that the minority is able to participate.

Fiscal Responsibility

This package requires pay-as-you-go budget discipline with no new deficit spending, and requires full transparency as well as end the abuse of special interest earmarks. The House rules package will not allow consideration of any bill, amendment or conference report where the mandatory spending (such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and farm

bill) or revenue provisions increases the deficit over the five-year and ten-year windows. We also plan to pursue pay-as-you-go legislation in order to protect our grandchildren from mountains of debt and spur economic growth.

Implementing 9/11 Commission's Recommendations

H.R. 1 provides for the implementation of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations remaining after the enactment of the Intelligence Reform bill in 2004. The bill's provisions include requiring major improvements in aviation security, border security, and infrastructure security; providing first responders the equipment and training they need; beefing up efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction; and significantly expanding diplomatic, economic, educational, and other strategies designed to counter Islamic terrorism.

Raising the Minimum Wage

This bill increases the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour over two years. Increasing the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour would bring a pay raise for up to 13 million Americans.

Promoting Life-Saving Stem Cell Research

The DeGette-Castle stem cell research bill increases the number of lines of stem cells that are eligible to be used in federally-funded research. The bill authorizes Health and Human Services (HHS) to support research involving embryonic stem cells meeting certain criteria, regardless of the date on which the stem cells were derived from an embryo. Current policy allows federal funds to be used for research only on those stem cell lines that existed when President Bush issued an executive order on August 9, 2001. The bill only authorizes the use of stem cell lines generated from embryos that would otherwise be discarded by fertility clinics. The bill includes stronger ethical guidelines than the President's current policy.

Cutting Interest Rates on Student Loans

The College Cost Reduction Act makes college more accessible and affordable by cutting the interest rates on subsidized student loans in half — from the current 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent. This significantly cuts the student debt burden of about 5 million students. It increases the maximum Pell Grant scholarship by at least \$500 over the next four years, ultimately reaching a maximum scholarship of at least \$5,200 by 2011. It also provides loan forgiveness for first responders, law enforcement officers, firefighters, nurses, public defenders, prosecutors, early childhood educators, librarians and others.

Requiring Medicare to Negotiate Lower Prescription Drug Prices

H.R. 4, the Bipartisan Rx Drug Negotiating Authority Bill repeals the current provision that prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) from negotiating with drug companies for lower prices for those enrolled in Medicare

prescription drug plans and instead requires the Secretary to conduct such negotiations. The bill also requires the HHS Secretary to submit to the relevant congressional committees a report on the negotiations conducted by the Secretary, not later than June 1, 2007, and every six months thereafter. Under the bill, the Secretary has discretion on how to best implement the negotiating authority and achieve the greatest discounts.

Repealing Big Oil Subsidies/Investing in Renewable Fuels

H.R. 6, the CLEAN Energy Act invests in clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency by repealing billions in subsidies given to big oil companies that are raking in record profits. Specifically, the measure ensures oil companies that were awarded the 1998 and 1999 leases for drilling paid their fair share in royalties. It also closes loopholes and ends giveaways in the tax code for Big Oil. Finally, the bill creates a Strategic Renewable Energy Reserve to invest in clean, renewable energy resources, promoting new emerging technologies, developing greater efficiency and improving energy conservation.