
DEMOCRATS: 0 FOR 6 IN '07

Failing to Produce Results in the 110th Congress

“A new poll gives Democrats mixed reviews, with nearly six in 10 respondents unable to name anything important the new Congress has done.”

- “Boasts, Barbs as Democrats Approach Their First 100 Days in the Majority,” *Los Angeles Times*, April 7, 2007

April 13, 2007

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INTRODUCTION

The first 100 days of a new Congress or a new Presidency have become a standard by which the public can step back, take stock, and examine the effectiveness of a new crop of leaders. The following report takes a look at Democrats' overall record of failure in the first 100 days of the 110th Congress and the fate of their stalled "Six for '06" agenda. Consider these facts:

- The failed "Six for '06" agenda has not seen one bill sent to the President's desk.
- Democrats have articulated **no long-term agenda or vision for America**.
- American troops in harm's way lack resources to fight the Global War on Terror.
- The largest tax increase in history looms over middle class families.
- Democrats voted to raise drug prices and limit drug choices for seniors, and have ignored the millions of Americans who lack health coverage.
- America remains woefully dependent on hostile governments for energy supplies.
- The coming fiscal tsunami of Social Security has been completely ignored.
- Spending is up, and millions of dollars in special-interest earmarks continue to be added to legislation.
- And in the words of one publication, Democrats have "lost control of the House floor" at least once.

Does this sound like the record of a party determined to lead?

In many ways, the "new" Democratic majority has simply picked up where the old Democratic majority left off. As we will demonstrate in the following pages, Republicans will continue to lead when and where Democrats do not.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING: Democrats' Job Performance

- "So far, the only laws enacted this year have been the naming of several buildings and the mostly routine extension of federal spending. And Pelosi and other Democrats were on shaky ground with their continuing claims that they are running the House with what she termed 'great openness and transparency.' ... [B]efore Democrats stake their claims for charting a 'new direction,' they should deliver on some of their earlier rhetorical boasts."
 - **"Majority Ruling," *CongressDaily PM*, March 30, 2007**

- "But when it comes to how many of their top legislative priorities have become law, a different number stands out: zero. None of the six bills that House Democrats passed in their initial legislative juggernaut has made it to the president's desk. A new poll gives Democrats mixed reviews, with nearly six in 10 respondents unable to name anything important the new Congress has done."
 - **"Boasts, Barbs as Democrats Approach Their First 100 Days in the Majority," *Los Angeles Times*, April 7, 2007**

- "None of the elements of the newly minted Democrats' congressional agenda have made it to President Bush's desk, and the prospects of signature bills such as federal funding for stem-cell research or homeland-security improvements becoming law any time soon are doubtful."
 - **"Democrats 0 for 6 in Congress," *Washington Times*, March, 21, 2007**

- "On legislation, however, the party's batting average is zero. House leaders trumpeted their six big wins in the first 100 hours, but the Senate passed only one of those bills...a minimum wage hike... and that's hung up over disagreements on accompanying tax cuts."
 - **"Are We Watching Another Do-Nothing Congress in the Making?" *The Kiplinger Letter*, March 23, 2007**

- "Some Democrats were frustrated with her [Pelosi's] decision not to give Republicans a chance to offer even one amendment on the six bills that passed in the initial spate. Pelosi promised the Republicans that they will have more input on other matters, but some Democrats say she has unnecessarily ceded the moral high ground. Some rank-and-file members see bias toward "bicoastal liberals" in Pelosi's inner circle -- particularly Reps. George Miller (D-Calif.) and Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) -- and short shrift given to the views of Midwesterners and more conservative Southern Democrats."
 - **"Emerging Grievances Within Party Likely to Test Pelosi," *Washington Post*, January 22, 2007**

- "House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is discovering the cold truth about governing with a slim majority: It's much easier to promise behavioral change for Congress than to deliver it."
 - **"Pelosi Falls Short on Election Promises," *Politico*, February 26, 2007**

- “Now that Republicans have shown they can use new House rules against the new Democratic majority that wrote them, the Democrats want new rules.”
 - **“House Democrats Will Move to Curb GOP’s Use of Motions to Recommit,”** [CO Today](#), March 27, 2007

- “The new Democratic House majority has an ambitious plan for its first 100 hours in power, from increasing the minimum wage to strengthening ethics rules to having the federal government negotiate prescription drug prices. Unfortunately, its plans don’t include getting those provisions passed in the democratic fashion that the Democrats promised to adhere to once in the majority.”

“Democrats say that they’ll adhere to their previous promises once their first flurry of business is finished. We look forward to that. But if they don’t reconsider, they will set an unfortunate precedent that fairness will be offered on sufferance, when the majority finds it convenient, and not as a matter of principle. That would not be a good start for the 110th Congress.”

 - **“A Fairer House; But Not Quite Yet,”** [Washington Post Editorial](#), January 3, 2007

- “It would be laughable if it weren’t so sad. House Democrats, having chafed and screamed for years about being frozen out of decision making by Republicans, are starting out their rule by ... freezing out Republicans.”
 - **“The Wrong Start,”** [Roll Call Editorial](#), January 4, 2007

- “There are also certain to be tensions with the Democratic House, where the rules give Speaker Pelosi far more power. In private, Senate sources say, Reid has been critical of the Speaker for what he believes was unnecessary roughness in ramming through her first-100-hours agenda, refusing to allow Republicans to propose amendments and breaking her campaign promise to open up the lawmaking process.”
 - **“The Democrats’ Inside Man,”** [Time Magazine](#), January 12, 2007

- “But few of the House-passed bills have become law, and signature issues such as raising the minimum wage and cutting student-loan rates are adrift. The Iraq war debate consumes time and energy, and if the year only produces Senate stalemate and White House veto fights, it will seem a very “Old Direction” to independent voters who helped Democrats win control in the 2006 elections and put a priority on bipartisan results.”
 - **“Democrats Reach Critical Stage,”** [Wall Street Journal](#), April 2, 2007

- “The Democratic leadership in Congress has been in office only a few months and already appears drunk on its own power.”
 - **“Pelosi’s Diplomacy,”** [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) Editorial, April 8, 2007

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA (1995) VS. DEMOCRATS' 'SIX FOR '06' (2007)

As Democrats have quickly discovered, sound bites from the campaign trail don't necessarily translate into sound legislation. Rather than take the time to craft responsible, rational legislation, Democrats rushed to the floor a series of flawed bills designed solely to quickly deliver on campaign slogans, producing, as the *Los Angeles Times* put it, "errors by the barrel." **To date, none have been signed into law, and it is unlikely many will.**

The substance of the Democrats' first 100 days is, at best, thin, and it particularly suffers in comparison to the *Contract with America* put forth by Republicans after they won the majority in 1995. Where Republicans put forward a coherent vision of more freedom, smaller government, and a stronger military, Democrats offer more taxation, more government regulation, and foreign policy retreat. Where the *Contract* advanced one of the most significant reforms of the last half century – welfare reform – Democrats are setting the stage for a reckless withdrawal in the Global War on Terrorism.

On the first day of the 110th Congress, Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) vowed to work together with Republicans "in partnership, not partisanship." So how does the new majority stack up on the "partnership" scale? Republicans are still waiting ...

In 1995, Republicans promised swift consideration of 10 broad reform initiatives based on "full and open debate." The 10 *Contract* initiatives were the basis of 24 bills, the majority of which were considered during the first 100 days. Twenty-one of the 24 bills were considered under an open rule or under suspension. Democrats offered 154 amendments to those bills, passing 48. Just three *Contract* bills were considered under a closed rule. Open debate isn't just about giving everyone a chance to talk – it's about giving Members the opportunity to work together to craft better legislation. Good public policy can't be enacted if it's left on the cutting room floor.

Last year, as she touted Democrats' "Six for '06" plan, then Minority Leader Pelosi told *CongressDaily* that her commitment to an open and bipartisan House was so great she would be willing to lose votes. "It's not about a defeat, it's about a decision," she said. "I certainly would not say that we can't bring things to the floor because we'll lose. **I think you have to be open to that and whatever the consequence, it is worth it because it has been the result of free and open debate.**"

That was then, but when the Democratic rubber met the legislative road the emptiness of their promises were revealed. All of the "Six for '06" items were considered under closed rules. Republicans were barred from offering even a single amendment. So much for good public policy, and so much for Democratic promises.

In the first 100 days of the new majority, the record is clear: Democrats talk a good game, but have not come close to delivering. Speaker Pelosi promised, in her words, the "most open...Congress in history." So far, the majority she leads has failed utterly to provide any openness whatsoever. All they've offered is flawed proposals, muzzled debate, closed rules, a lack of vision, and empty promises. All that and no t-shirt, either.

DEMOCRATS' RECORD OF FAILURE: National Security

In the opening hours of the 110th Congress, Democrats attempted to outsource responsibility for the U.S. Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) – a program recognized by the 9/11 Commission report as critical and in need of expansion – to the United Nations. That was H.R. 1. From there, the Democrats' record on national security just got worse.

Democrats spent a week debating a non-binding resolution criticizing one tactic in the Global War on Terror – a debate Republicans won by making a compelling case to the American people about the disastrous consequences of anything short of victory. Democrats spent three months wrangling over the details of their "slow bleed" strategy, which would force a precipitous withdrawal from the Global War on Terror by hamstringing our troops in harm's way and handcuffing our generals on the ground. To grease the wheels for this reckless bill, Democratic leaders loaded it up with billions in unrelated pork-barrel spending.

Key Democrats even proposed closing the terrorist detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and transferring the detainees to U.S. communities. They've attempted to ban the use of the phrase "Global War on Terror" in official planning documents at the House Armed Services Committee. And while our troops remain in harm's way, Democratic leaders skipped town on a two-week vacation to meet with leaders in Syria – one of the chief state-sponsors of terrorism. And they haven't ruled out meeting with Iranian leaders either.

As demonstrated by their very actions, Democrats have severely misjudged the true nature of our enemy and willfully neglected the unspeakable consequences of failure.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT DEMOCRATS' FAILURES TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SECURITY

Time and time again, writers and editorial boards across the country have criticized House Democrats for their dereliction of duty:

"After weeks of internal strife, House Democrats have brought forth their proposal for forcing President Bush to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq by 2008. **The plan is an unruly mess: bad public policy, bad precedent and bad politics. If the legislation passes, Bush says he'll veto it, as well he should.**"

- "Do We Really Need a Gen. Pelosi?" *Los Angeles Times* Editorial, March 12, 2007

"It [Democrats' plan] is an initial step by newly empowered congressional Democrats to completely undermine the war by limiting funds - to deny the troops the beans and bullets they need to win, and to broadcast to America's enemies in the Middle East and around the world that the United States has lost the will to protect itself, and its friends."

- "Dems' Disgrace," *New York Post* Editorial, February 17, 2007

"We fear that **clever maneuvers** like the one proposed by Representative John Murtha, reportedly with the backing of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, to **dress up a reduction in troop strength as a 'support the troops' measure** won't help contain the war or make American troops safer."

- "On to the Hard Part on Iraq," *New York Times* Editorial, February 17, 2007

"House Democrats are pressing a bill that has the endorsement of MoveOn.org but excludes the judgment of the U.S. commanders who would have to execute the retreat the bill mandates. It would

heap money on unneeded dairy farmers while provoking a constitutional fight with the White House that could block the funding to equip troops in the field. [Democrats] should not seek to use pork to buy a majority for an unconditional retreat that the majority does not support."

- **"Retreat and Butter," *Washington Post* Editorial, March 23, 2007**

Democrats have even tried to ban usage of the phrase "Global War on Terror":

"This is yet another sign that the Democrats are going hard-left on national-security issues generally and not just on Iraq -- in this instance, trying to airbrush away the very war on terrorism from our most basic defense legislation."

- **"Wartime Revisionism At Home," *Washington Times* Editorial, April 5, 2007**

Multiple editorials have explained the problems caused by Democratic leaders' decision to use their vacation to act as junior diplomats, undermining the President and our professional diplomats and jeopardizing our efforts in the Global War on Terror:

"But House Speaker Nancy Pelosi crossed a line this week by visiting Syria, where she met with President Bashar Assad. She violated a long-held understanding that the United States should speak with one official voice abroad – even if the country is deeply divided on foreign policy back home. ... No matter that she claimed to have stuck closely to administration positions in her conversations with Assad, **smiling photos of Pelosi and the Syrian president convey the unspoken message that while the U.S. president is unwilling to talk with Syria, another wing of the government is.** Assad made good use of the moment."

- **"Pelosi Steps Out of Bounds on Ill-Conceived Trip to Syria," *USA Today* Editorial, April 6, 2007**

"She purported to convey a message from Israel's Ehud Olmert expressing similar interest in 'the peace process,' except that the Israeli Prime Minister felt obliged to issue a clarification noting that Ms. Pelosi had got the message wrong. Israel hadn't changed its policy, which is that it will negotiate only when Mr. Assad repudiates his support for terrorism and stops trying to dominate Lebanon. As a shuttle diplomat, Ms. Pelosi needs some practice. ... With her trip, Ms. Pelosi has now reassured the Syrian strongman that Mr. Bush lacks the domestic support to impose any further pressure on his country. She has also **made it less likely that Mr. Assad will** cooperate with the Hariri probe, or **assist the Iraqi government in defeating Baathist and al Qaeda terrorists.**"

- **"Democrats At War," *Wall Street Journal* Editorial, April 6, 2007**

REPUBLICANS SUPPORT AMERICAN TROOPS, VICTORY IN THE WAR ON TERROR

Republicans believe there is still time to do the right thing: fully-fund the troops without strings attached. House Republicans have filed a discharge petition to force a vote on legislation by Vietnam War veteran Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX) which would ensure Congress fully-funds our troops in harm's way. And we will continue our fight next week on the House floor to strip the Democrats' bill of the dangers it presents to our national security.

Democrats are not just sending our troops a message of defeat; they are setting policies to ensure it. Arbitrary timelines and political conditions serve as a road map for the terrorists. Substituting the judgment of 535 politicians from Washington, D.C. for that of our generals on the ground is, by any standard or definition, a recipe for disaster.

The American military will win this war on radical Islamic terrorism. For the safety and security of future generations of Americans, they must.

DEMOCRATS' RECORD OF FAILURE: Economy, Workers, & Families

In their first 100 days, House Democrats have compiled a dubious record of failure on behalf of American workers and families, undermining strong economic growth and new job creation. They've failed to propose a balanced budget that doesn't raise taxes on middle class families and small businesses. They've failed to protect workers' rights by approving a **massive payback for union bosses** that exposes workers to intimidation and retribution. And they've **failed to provide college cost relief** for students and families struggling to afford a higher education.

And while Democrats ignored the unintended consequences of raising the minimum wage in their "Six for '06" rush, House Republicans managed to force Democrats to pass a bill providing tax relief for small businesses, blunting the increased costs that eliminate job opportunities and benefits for American workers.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT DEMOCRATS' FAILURES ON BEHALF OF WORKERS & FAMILIES

House Democrats' budget proposal (H.Con.Res. 99) saddles middle class families and small businesses with the largest tax hike in history, just days before they file their taxes:

"Assuming tax cuts go away is a key to House plan for boosting domestic spending"

- *Associated Press Headline, March 21, 2007*

"Personal and business income tax rates will climb. Capital gains taxes will go up. The death tax will have new life. The marriage penalty will once more punish husbands and wives. Child tax credits won't continue. And the AMT (alternative minimum tax) will hit more and more middle-income workers. ...

What will the average American family get after it starts paying this extra \$2,641 each year? The revenue is being treated as a spending windfall -- enabling a \$3.3 trillion spree of new and expanded government programs during the next 10 years. The goal of balancing the budget takes a back seat."

- *Former Representative Ernest Istook, Washington Post, April 11, 2007*

House Democrats' big payback to Big Labor (H.R. 800) was lambasted by writers and editorial boards across the country:

"There's no love for freedom in the legislation now moving to the House floor. ... **Abuses of workers' true wishes not only are potential, they are guaranteed.** There is no 'free choice' in this travesty, clearly a payoff to union leaders who contributed so handsomely to the Democrats' November election victory."

- *"Democrats: Keep Secret Ballot Sacred," San Francisco Examiner Editorial, February 16, 2007*

"[T]he bedrock of federal labor law is not unionism under any conditions, but the right of workers to choose whether they want to affiliate with a union. ... **Unions once supported the secret ballot for organization elections. They were right then and are wrong now.** Unions have every right to a fair hearing, and the National Labor Relations Board should be more vigilant about attempts by employers to game the system. In the end, however, whether to unionize is up to the workers. A secret ballot ensures that their choice will be a free one."

- *"Keep Union Ballots Secret," Los Angeles Times Editorial, March 1, 2007*

"Union leaders and the Democrats ... ought to explain **why they are so afraid of secret ballots.**"
- **"Target: Workers' Secret Ballot,"** *Grand Rapids Press* Editorial, February 5, 2007

Further endangering America's 21st century economy is the Democrats' student loan bill (H.R. 5), which does nothing to help students and families struggling with college costs:

"It's a great sound bite – cutting rates in half,' says Mark Kantrowitz, the publisher of FinAid.org, which gives information about ways to pay for college. **'But it's an incredibly expensive proposal with very little student aid benefit.'** ... 'The benefit,' Mr. Kantrowitz notes, 'comes after students have graduated, which makes it unlikely to get more low-income students to enroll in college, especially since they tend to fear debt more."

- **"Congress Moves to Cut College Loan Costs,"** *Christian Science Monitor*, January 16, 2007

"The question is, what are you achieving by cutting the interest rate?' asked Jamie P. Merisotis, president of the Institute for Higher Education Policy. 'You are not encouraging any more students to go to college because you're cutting the interest rate on loans that students have already taken out.'"

- **"Democrats' Plan to Slash the Interest Rate for Student Loans Draws Criticism From Unlikely Sources,"** *Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 5, 2007

REPUBLICANS AIM TO STRENGTHEN U.S. ECONOMY, PROTECT AMERICAN WORKERS & FAMILIES

House Republicans believe **we can balance the federal budget without raising taxes.** Raising taxes won't help balance the budget, it will simply punish working families and slow the economic growth that continues to create the new jobs of tomorrow. Republicans have a budget proposal that balances the budget by keeping taxes low, promoting economic growth, and putting an end to the excessive waste, fraud and abuse within the federal government. We also took the first important steps in reforming America's biggest entitlement programs – which Democrats have completely ignored.

We must also make sure that American workers can join a union without exposing them to harassment and intimidation from union bosses or employers. At the same time, Republicans believe the wishes of American citizens should not be trumped by the desires of those here illegally. Democrats disagreed, and uniformly opposed a proposal by House Republicans prohibiting illegal immigrants from working with union bosses to establish a union against the wishes of workers who are American citizens.

Because a strong economy requires an educated workforce, Republicans believe college graduates should not receive extra benefits at the expense of those struggling just to get into college. A GOP proposal blocked by Democrats would have benefited students and their families by redirecting dollars toward need-based aid, such as Pell Grants.

Republican tax relief will help blunt the unintended consequences of raising the minimum wage, but we need to do more to protect jobs for low-income workers and provide relief for small businesses.

In their first 100 days, **House Democrats have failed** American workers and families, and demonstrated their disregard for pro-growth, pro-jobs policies that will help expand our economy.

DEMOCRATS' RECORD OF FAILURE: Fiscal Responsibility

In January, Democrats took the reins in Congress, portraying themselves as agents of change who would restore trust by ending pork-barrel politics in Washington. But after the first 100 days of Democratic rule, it is clear Democrats are exactly who we thought they were all along – the same old party of tax-and-spend government. And congressional pork is back, with a vengeance.

The collapse started in February when House Democrats passed a massive spending bill for fiscal year 2007 – a bill they touted as “earmark-free,” which was later confirmed to contain hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for earmarks. Weeks later, Democrats passed a war spending bill loaded with billions of dollars in pork projects, with Democratic leaders reportedly threatening to deny prized earmarks to members who opposed the leadership’s plan to choke off funding for American troops and their mission in Iraq. Instead, Democratic leaders moved to pork up the war funding bill on the backs of our troops, providing funding for spinach, tropical fish, and other pet projects in exchange for their support for a bill that gave al-Qaeda a timetable for American surrender.

House Democrats continued their fiscally irresponsible run in late March by passing a budget containing the largest tax increase in American history, raising taxes on middle-class families to pay for the Democrats’ new spending. All this, in fewer than 100 days.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT DEMOCRATS' FAILURES ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Democrats’ failure on the issue of fiscal responsibility has not gone unnoticed. Here’s just a sampling of comments about their record in the first 100 days of the 110th Congress:

“Democratic Congressional leaders have pledged to end the anonymity by requiring disclosure of the lawmakers who sponsor earmarks, and some have proposed ending the practice of ‘airdropping’ items into a bill just before final passage. But the appropriators and their allies often complain that such measures single them out unfairly, and Democratic draft proposals introduced this year left loopholes for many projects.”

- **“In New Congress, Pork May Linger,” *New York Times*, November 26, 2006**

“‘This is an earmark-free [omnibus spending bill],’ boasted Rep. Rahm Emanuel of Illinois, who chairs the Democratic Caucus. But the claim of ‘earmark’ purity doesn’t stand up to scrutiny. ... The ‘no earmarks’ loophole was big enough to allow a convoy of earmarks into the final bill, including \$185 million for agricultural research projects and \$50 million to build an experimental rain forest in Iowa.”

- **“Democrats’ No Earmark Pledge ‘Doesn’t Stand Up to Scrutiny,’” *OpinionJournal’s Political Diary*, February 2, 2007**

“It’s hard to say which is worse: leaders offering peanuts for a vote of this magnitude, or members allowing their votes to be bought for peanuts.”

- **“Pork Has No Place in ‘Emergency’ War Bill,” *USA Today* Editorial, March 22, 2007**

“As it is, House Democrats are pressing a bill that has the endorsement of MoveOn.org but excludes the judgment of the U.S. commanders who would have to execute the retreat the bill mandates. It would

heap money on unneeded dairy farmers while provoking a constitutional fight with the White House that could block the funding to equip troops in the field."

- "Retreat and Butter," *Washington Post* Editorial, March 23, 2007

"Democratic leaders and appropriators responded by adding \$21 billion to the [troop funding bill]. The vast majority of the additions comprised pork projects or spending utterly unrelated to the wars. The extra spending was designed for a single purpose: to purchase support from Democrats who otherwise would have voted against the bill. Moderate Democrats opposed the legislation because of its war-fighting micromanagement features and ultimatums. Liberal Democrats opposed it because it did not stop funding the Iraq war."

- "Hogs on the Hill," *Washington Times* Editorial, March 23, 2007

REPUBLICANS ARE WORKING TO PROMOTE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

House Republicans have worked to bring greater transparency and accountability to how taxpayer dollars are spent. We brought earmark reform legislation to the floor and passed it last September, and yet virtually every Democrat – including Nancy Pelosi, Steny Hoyer, and Rahm Emanuel – voted "no." The reform bill, which went into effect immediately upon passage, required public disclosure of the names of all earmark sponsors – the first time such legislation had ever been passed.

Last year House Republicans rejected \$14 billion in unnecessary and non-emergency spending added by the Senate to the emergency supplemental bill. This year Republicans are fighting to do the same by rejecting worthless pork projects added to the war spending bill at the expense of our troops.

House Republicans also presented a fiscally-responsible proposal that balances the budget without raising taxes. On the other hand, in their first 100 days, **House Democrats have failed** their key tests of fiscal responsibility – and it is middle-class families and American troops who will pay the price.

In their first 100 days, House Democrats have failed to address the health care concerns of American families. They voted to impose government price controls on Medicare Part D, which would **increase drug prices** and **limit drug choices**. They have failed the millions of Americans who continue to go without health coverage. And they have proposed cuts to the free market Medicare Advantage program, hiking costs for low-income Americans.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT DEMOCRATS' FAILURES ON HEALTH CARE

House Democrats have completely failed to address the health care concerns of everyday Americans – and people are taking note:

"With a market share of about 46%, the government would set drug prices, not negotiate them, and then establish 'formularies' telling seniors which drugs they could use and which ones they couldn't. Would that make seniors feel better off? **I doubt it.**"

- **"Drug Makers' Politics Produces a Bitter Pill," *Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 15, 2006**

"The VA plan illustrates the point. It offers 1,300 drugs, compared with 4,300 available under Part D, prompting more than one-third of retired veterans to enroll in Medicare drug plans... More than 75% of seniors say they are satisfied with the benefit, five recent independent surveys found. ... The public would be best served if the new Congress conducts in-depth oversight to gather the facts, rather than rushing through legislation within 100 hours to fix something that isn't necessarily broken."

- **"Put Brakes on Drug Plan 'Fix,'" *USA Today* Editorial, November 13, 2006**

"Republicans tried to get a vote on [Small Business Health Plans] through a motion that would force Democratic leaders to bring up the legislation this month. That motion failed on a party-line vote. Associated Builders and Contractors, one of the groups favoring [SBHPs], accused Democrats of ignoring the No. 1 challenge facing small businesses - the rising cost of health insurance. **'One day into the new Congress, Democrats have turned their backs on the 45 million Americans without health-care coverage, nearly 60 percent of whom are employed by small businesses.'**" says ABC President and CEO Kirk Pickerel."

- **"Democrats Reject Bid for Vote on Health Plans," *Buffalo Business First*, January 12, 2007**

"Reduced funding for the [Medicare Advantage] program would have a negative impact on the health and health care of millions of Medicare beneficiaries – **particularly for low-income and minority beneficiaries.**" ... This program is vitally important to the health and well-being of racial and ethnic minorities who rely on MA to provide them with the comprehensive, affordable, and coordinated care they need."

- **Letter from the NAACP to Members of Congress, March 13, 2007**

REPUBLICANS AIM TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

House Republicans want to protect the Medicare prescription drug program for America's seniors and the Medicare Advantage program for lower-income Americans, both of which use free market competition to offer **lower prices** and **more choices** than their government-run counterparts. And to help the millions of uninsured Americans obtain health coverage, House Republicans believe we need new, innovative approaches like **Small Business Health Plans** and **Health Savings Accounts**.

DEMOCRATS' RECORD OF FAILURE: American Energy Security

As the final touch on their opening "100 Hours" ceremonies, House Democrats memorialized their decades-long record of chronic negligence on American-energy policy with passage of their "energy" bill (H.R. 6). While alternative energy supplies are certainly necessary, Democrats embraced their favorite (failed) approach to all things economic – punitive taxation – to advance a sound bite that would deliver disastrous consequences if signed into law. Make no mistake, the Democratic proposal would decrease American energy production, increase foreign dependence and prices at the pump, and send good-paying American jobs overseas.

In fact, the Democratic bill would not create any new energy supplies whatsoever to help lower consumer prices or America's dependence on foreign sources of energy. It amounts to little more than a \$6.5 billion tax-and-spend scheme that punishes American energy producers to fund yet-to-be-determined government grants, for yet-to-be-determined research projects, at yet-to-be-determined dates in the future. In the meantime, these new taxes will create a fast track for **the outsourcing of good-paying American jobs** and a guaranteed **increase in our dependence** on foreign sources of energy.

But Democrats didn't stop at higher taxes and prices in their bill. In 1998 and 1999, the Clinton Administration entered into legally-binding contracts with energy companies, but it "neglected" to include price thresholds that trigger payments to the American taxpayer. While Republicans support the recovery of the \$10 billion in lost taxpayer revenue due to the Clinton lease error – and passed legislation to effectively address this issue – the Democratic bill declares those contracts null and void, which constitutes a breach of contract.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT DEMOCRATS' FAILURES ON AMERICAN ENERGY POLICY

Writers and editorial boards across the country lambasted House Democrats American energy-tax bill. For example:

"The House energy bill is nearly a carbon copy (if we can still use the word "carbon" in polite company) of California's Proposition 87. That 2006 ballot initiative would have taxed California's home-produced oil in order to subsidize "green technology" alternatives. California is a fairly liberal state, **but even those voters understood that Prop 87 would have damaged the state's home oil and gas industry, increased foreign oil consumption, and raised the energy bills of state residents.** It was clobbered at the polls. The House will plow ahead anyway, but let's hope the Senate has more wisdom."

- "The OPEC Energy Security Act," *Wall Street Journal* Editorial, January 17, 2007

"Like much of the legislation approved during the Democrats' artificial 100-hour deadline, [Democratic energy bill] tries to do too much with too little attention to detail," contained "errors by the barrel," and "opened the door to new problems...We can only hope that the Senate will do a better job with its own energy legislation."

- "Errors by the Barrel," *Los Angeles Times* Editorial, January 20, 2007

"Democrats want to subvert contract law by using strong-arm tactics that would warm the heart of Russian President Vladimir Putin. At least Mr. Putin, in seizing resources from criminal oligarchs, could

have argued that he was merely retrieving what had literally been stolen from the Russian state through fraud. **The Democrats can make no such claim against the innocent businesses they are about to financially molest. And consumers will pay for it.**

- "Democrats Taxing Energy Policy," *Washington Times* Editorial, January 18, 2007

REPUBLICANS ARE WORKING TO STRENGTHEN AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

Republicans understand that safe, abundant, and affordable supplies of energy are critical to our economy. Unlike Democrats, Republicans are working to produce more of it – in traditional, renewable and alternative forms – right here at home with American workers.

Congress must adopt a balanced and achievable policy to put the nation on a path to energy independence in the next decade. Our consumers are tired of the periodic price spikes that break their budgets and force them to choose between taking the family to the movies on the weekend and paying the gas bill. And they should be. American families' budgets should not be affected by the whims of foreign governments that place arbitrary restrictions on our energy supply and cause gas prices to soar. American families need, and deserve, energy independence, and Democrats have failed to produce any comprehensive plan to address this issue in their first 100 days.

America has the toughest safeguards and the most advanced technology in the world. We can put Americans to work producing energy in a way that protects the environment and the consumers' wallet at the same time. In fact, Republicans have authored and Democrats have obstructed policies that strike this balance. Increasing American energy supplies to meet the needs of today, and providing sound financial commitments to drive the innovative research on fuels for the future, is the only way to get the job done without causing harm to our economy, and exactly the kind of solution for which Republicans will continue to fight.

One of the key planks of House Democrats' "Six for '06" agenda was retirement security, yet they have taken no steps to address the issue during their first 100 days in control of Congress. House Democrats have failed to bring forward any legislation that would strengthen Americans' retirement security and pointedly refused to address much-needed reforms to strengthen Social Security in their budget proposal.

Everyone knows runaway entitlement spending is unsustainable on its current course. With the retirement of the baby boom generation beginning next year, our current entitlement system represents a looming tsunami that will bankrupt future generations of Americans. And yet, the response from the new Democratic majority is stone, cold silence. The Democratic budget ignores the warnings on entitlements – among other things – and offers no reform to preserve Social Security for future generations.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT DEMOCRATS' FAILURES ON RETIREMENT SECURITY

At a House Budget Committee hearing on January 23, the Democrats' own witness – David Walker, the Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) – called the rising costs of government entitlements a "fiscal cancer" that threatens "catastrophic consequences for our country" and could "bankrupt America."

"Delay does not avoid action – it just makes the steps that have to be taken more dramatic and potentially harder. We owe it to our country, to our children and to our grandchildren to address this fiscal imbalance. The world will present them with new challenges – we need not bequeath them this burden too. The time for action is now."

- **GAO Comptroller David Walker testimony, House Budget Committee, January 23, 2007**

"Strengthening Social Security and Medicare is the most important step we can take to ensure the retirement security of our children and grandchildren, the long-term stability of the federal budget, and the continued growth of the American economy. I look forward to sitting down with Democrats and Republicans, without pre-conditions, and finding common ground on these critical issues."

- **Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson testimony, House Budget Committee, February 7, 2007**

The Democrats' chose to ignore these warnings and refused to address the issue in their budget proposal – a plan that also includes the largest tax hike in American history. As Budget Committee Ranking Republican Paul Ryan (R-WI) said during March 28 floor debate, **"The Democrats heard all of these witnesses, all of these warnings, and they chose to do nothing."**

REPUBLICANS ARE WORKING TO STRENGTHEN AMERICANS' RETIREMENT SECURITY

Republicans have worked hard to strengthen Americans' retirement security, not only by working to preserve and expand worker pensions but also proposing to preserve Social Security for future generations. In fact, the Republican budget alternative not only balances

the budget without raising taxes, it also includes critical protections for Social Security and sets the table for serious, long term retirement security reforms – something the Democratic majority simply chooses to ignore.

Moreover, Republicans worked closely last year on a bipartisan basis to enact the *Pension Protection Act* – the most comprehensive overhaul of our worker pension laws in more than 30 years. Workers and retirees deserve pension laws that protect their interests, and these bipartisan reforms will make sure their hard-earned pension benefits will be there when they retire. The positive reviews of the pension reforms continue to roll in, both in safeguarding the retirement security for Americans relying on traditional, defined benefit pension plans but also helping workers save and invest more wisely in 401(k) retirement savings plans. Lastly, the measure will help protect taxpayers from a potential multibillion dollar bailout of the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, which insures worker pension benefits.

In their first 100 days, **House Democrats have failed** future generations of Americans who will need worker pensions, 401(k) retirement savings plans, and a strengthened Social Security program to ensure they enjoy a prosperous retirement.

House Republicans have demonstrated, both to each other and to the public, a firm commitment to common sense solutions that address the problems the American people care about. Republicans stood together against both the Democrats' non-binding resolution and "slow-bleed" strategy, and ***stood for*** a clean funding bill without strings attached; we stood together against the largest tax hike in American history ***and for*** the successful pro-growth, family tax relief we established over the last 12 years.

This is a powerful statement about our commitment to return to our core Republican principles, and our unity stands in stark contrast to the Democratic division and disarray we've seen in the first 100 Days. As the majority party in Congress, Democrats have the numbers they need to pass the bills they want. That's a fact. But as Republicans have consistently shown in this first 100 Days, we can and will win the debate when we stay unified. Whether it's a debate about winning the Global War on Terror or balancing the budget by reigning-in entitlement spending and keeping taxes low for American families, Republicans have been doing just that.

REPUBLICANS HOLDING DEMOCRATS ACCOUNTABLE, OFFERING SUBSTANTIVE ALTERNATIVES

Republicans have already achieved significant legislative successes on the House floor with seven consecutive "motion-to-recommit" victories that exposed flaws and substantively improved weaknesses in underlying Democrat bills. Among the proposals successfully passed by House Republicans in recent weeks, with the support of rank-and-file Democrats:

- A measure protecting innocent American passengers from being subject to frivolous civil lawsuits when they report potential terrorist activity (prompted by public outrage over last November's "flying Imams" incident aboard a domestic airline flight in Minnesota).
- A measure protecting U.S. military recruiters from discrimination by federally-funded colleges and universities.
- A measure ensuring funds for federal water projects cannot be used to lobby or to retain lobbyists to attempt to influence federal, state or local governments or officials.

Republicans have been so successful, in fact, that our record has elicited the ire of Democratic leadership, which has pledged to change their own rules. If Democrats try to change the rules mid-game, they can expect a vigorous fight from House Republicans, who are successfully offering solutions on the House floor that are winning bipartisan support and addressing problems American families are concerned about – and Democratic leaders are trying to shut it down. Republicans won't go down without a fight.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT REPUBLICAN UNITY, MOTIONS-TO-RECOMMIT

"Because Republicans have stood remarkably united against the Democratic effort [slow bleed], the loss of just a handful of Democratic votes could lead to an embarrassing public defeat."

- **"Split Democratic Caucus To Get Iraq Pullout Plan,"** *Washington Post*, March 8, 2007.

"House Republicans seem to be regrouping, achieving some wins they believe will force the majority to negotiate with them. Having surprised even themselves with the unity they displayed against a resolution denouncing the troop surge in Iraq, invigorated Republicans say they'll stay nearly in lock step this week against supplemental spending legislation for the war that includes a timetable for withdrawal, among other conditions."

- **"House Republicans Regaining Their Footing,"** *Congressional Quarterly*, March 19, 2007.

"So far this year the Republican Party has repeatedly transformed minority procedural rights into a series of substantive wins on everything from enhancing maritime security to more workplace protection for religious practices, to prohibitions on contracts to educational institutions not supporting U.S. defense efforts."

- **"Outdone Dems; GOP Minority Keeps Winning,"** *Washington Times*, March 29, 2007

"This little tool, which the GOP used quite effectively this week, is another weapon in their arsenal as Democratic leaders adjust to the burden of governing a clearly divided caucus."

- **"House Republicans Secure Three Rare Wins,"** *Politico*, March 9, 2007

"House Republicans are wielding the power of parliamentary procedure to score floor victories unlikely for a minority party."

- **"GOP Claims House Victories in Parliamentary Power Plays,"** *Washington Times*, March 23, 2007

REPUBLICANS ARE COMMITTED TO LEADING AMERICA IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Democrats pledged to lead the country in a "new direction" without articulating what that means for American families. As illustrated by their complete disarray and failure to introduce a long-term agenda in the first 100 Days of this Congress, however, Democrats simply do not know what constitutes "new" themselves. In stark contrast, Republicans are committed to leading America in the right direction, and that means keeping taxes low, restraining government spending and opposing pork-barrel politics, and giving our troops the resources they need to win the Global War on Terror.

In fact, in debates ranging from economic prosperity to American national security, Republicans have demonstrated that the **Democrats' unintelligible "new" direction is dangerous - not "right" - for American families.** To date, it's simply and undeniably been wrong. As Democrats continue to abdicate their authority, Republicans will continue to lead and offer substantive solutions that address the issues middle class families care about.

In her December 14 press event to preview the Democratic agenda, Speaker-Elect Pelosi promised an “open” Congress three times. Such promises have been repeatedly broken and stand in stark contrast to the fair and open debate during the Republicans’ *Contract with America* in 1995. More importantly, the Democrats’ first 100 days were filled with a series of flawed bills based solely on empty campaign slogans, most of which are unlikely to become law. Indeed, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, “A new poll gives Democrats mixed reviews, with nearly six in 10 respondents unable to name anything important the new Congress has done.”

As House Democrats continue to come up empty time and time again, Republicans are re-engaging the American people in the drive for a smaller, more accountable federal government. In just a few short months, Republicans have already begun to re-energize the GOP team, re-develop the Republican brand, and offer substantive solutions to address the issues that matter. Whether it is a plan to balance the budget without raising taxes, an energy policy that creates American jobs and lowers consumer prices at the pump, or a clean funding bill that gives our troops the resources they need to win the Global War on Terror, Republicans will continue to lead when Democrats do not.

While the Democrats’ first 100 days have brought forth a caucus that remains divided on key issues of the day, Republicans stand united in opposition to the Democrats’ agenda of more taxes, more spending, more regulation, and retreat from fighting the Global War on Terrorism. And it bodes well for Republicans’ efforts to earn back our majority.