



The Republicans' Record of Failure

So Far This Year, Republicans Have . . .

...FAILED TO CREATE A SINGLE MANUFACTURING JOB

Since 2001, Republican policies have led to the loss of 2.8 million jobs in the manufacturing sector. In 2005, not one manufacturing job has been created. Furthermore, since 2001, the economy has posted only 8 months (out of 53) of job gains of 150,000 or more – 150,000 is the number of new jobs needed each month just to keep up with population growth.

...FAILED TO ADDRESS AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE CRISIS

The House Republican bills proposed during their so-called "Health Care Initiative Week" do nothing to make health care more affordable or health care insurance more available. Forty-five million Americans today have no health insurance. That is a national disgrace. And, that number has increased by more than 5 million since George W. Bush became President. Furthermore, since January 2000, the cost of health insurance has risen by 59 percent, compared to only a 12 percent increase in workers' wages.

...FAILED TO ENSURE SOCIAL SECURITY'S SOLVENCY

President Bush and Congressional Republicans continue their campaign to privatize Social Security despite overwhelming opposition from the American public. Democrats have repeatedly stated our desire to craft a bipartisan solution to Social Security's long-term solvency challenge, but we stand firm against privatizing and undermining this successful program.

...FAILED TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS IN IRAQ

Our mission in Iraq has been plagued from the start by poor intelligence, poor post-war planning, and a disdain for the advice of our allies and our own military leaders. The Administration sent many of our servicemen and women into battle without the proper equipment. House Republicans defeated a Democratic attempt to force the Administration to put forth a strategy for success in Iraq, which Democrats believe is crucial to achieving our mission and ensuring our national security.

...FAILED TO ENSURE AN EFFECTIVE ETHICS PROCESS

House Republicans tried to unilaterally change bipartisan ethics rules for partisan gain – but were forced to backtrack. And, then, they insisted on installing partisan staff in violation of the spirit and intent of the 1997 bipartisan ethics agreement – but again were forced to retreat. However, the undeniable reality is this: The House of Representatives still does not have an effective, meaningful ethics process in this 109th Congress.

...FAILED TO EXERCISE OVERSIGHT ON NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES

House Republicans have been completely derelict in exercising their constitutional responsibility to oversee the executive branch. The most recent example is their failure to investigate the White House leak of a covert CIA agent's identity, which endangered our national security and possibly violated the law. This failure is especially egregious when compared to the 140 hours of testimony Republicans took to investigate whether the Clinton White House misused its holiday card database.

...FAILED TO PROVIDE AMERICAN WORKERS WITH A FAIR MINIMUM WAGE

By defeating a Democratic proposal to raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25, House Republicans have ignored the struggle of workers at the lower end of the economic scale. The minimum wage is 26 percent lower today than it was in 1979. If the minimum wage had kept pace with inflation since it was enacted in 1968, it would now be \$8.88 per hour.

...FAILED TO REIN IN RECORD DEFICITS THAT THEIR POLICIES CREATED

Republicans have completely abandoned the fiscally responsible policies adopted by Democrats in the 1990s that led to record budget surpluses. In the last three years – 2003, 2004, 2005 – Republicans have posted the three worst deficits in our nation's history. Republican proposals like Social Security privatization would only worsen deficits, and would saddle future generations of Americans with trillions of dollars in debt.