



**JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE**  
SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER, CHAIRMAN  
REPRESENTATIVE CAROLYN B. MALONEY, VICE CHAIR



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## **SCHUMER/MALONEY: AMERICAN FAMILIES ARE LOSING GROUND ON BUSH'S WATCH; INCOME DOWN, POVERTY UP SINCE 2000**

*New Census Data Show Wealth Increasing For the Top 20 Percent While  
Everyone Else Is Left Out*

*The Number of Children Living in Poverty has Skyrocketed 10.7 Percent since  
2000*

*More Americans are Without Health Insurance than at Any Point since 1987;  
600,000 More Children are Uninsured in 2006*

Washington, D.C. – Senator Charles E. Schumer, Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee (JEC) and Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, Vice Chair of the JEC, today reacted to the U.S. Census Bureau's release of its 2006 report on income, poverty and health insurance coverage in the United States. Although median household income rose slightly in 2006, after adjusting for inflation, the report showed that all but the richest of American households have seen their incomes decline since 2000.

The Census Bureau also revealed that while the national poverty rate declined by 0.3% in 2006, the number of people in poverty living in poverty has risen by 4.9 million since 2000, an increase in the poverty rate of one percentage point. Additionally, the number of children under 18 in poverty has skyrocketed under the Bush Administration, rising 10.7 percent in the last 6 years.

The number of uninsured Americans rose from 2005 to 2006. The number of uninsured children also jumped over 600,000 from 2005 to 2006. More Americans are now without health insurance than at any point since the Census Bureau began collecting comparable data starting in 1987.

**Senator Schumer said:** “Today’s numbers make one thing clear: the Bush economy benefits the wealthy top and everyone else is left behind. American families have not recovered from this Administration’s policies, which have produced stagnant wages, lost jobs, and declining health care coverage for many Americans in the middle. American families are the bedrock of our economy and this Administration has stood by as they have fallen behind, while actively lending a helping hand to the wealthiest and those who need it the least.”

**Rep Maloney said:** “The Census report shows that only the well-to-do are doing well in the Bush economy, while the typical American family has lost ground during the first six years of this administration. Since taking office, the President’s policies have left middle class families’ real incomes significantly lower, nearly 5 million more Americans living in poverty and the ranks of the uninsured have swelled by 8.6 million people. Only the wealthiest American household’s incomes are rising faster than inflation, and the poorest households continue to fall further behind. The divergence between the “haves” and the “have nots” in the Bush economy stands in marked contrast to the second term of the Clinton Administration when economic gains were broadly shared.”

Key findings from the Census report include the following:

#### **INCOME**

- **The typical American household’s real (inflation-adjusted) income rose a modest 0.7 percent from \$47,845 in 2005 to \$48,201 in 2006.** Despite the gain in 2006, real median household income has declined by \$962 during the Bush administration’s first six years. This represents a 2 percent drop in real median income since the year 2000.
- **Only the top fifth of American households have enjoyed any rise in real income since 2000.** While average real income for households in the top fifth of the income distribution has risen by 1.0 percent since 2000, income has declined for the other 80 percent of households. In particular, those households in the bottom fifth of the income distribution have seen their real incomes decline by 4.5 percent since 2000.

#### **POVERTY**

- **The poverty rate in 2006 was 12.3 percent, declining slightly from its level of 12.6 percent in 2005.** Since 2000, the poverty rate has increased by 1 percentage point. There were nearly 36.5 million people in poverty in 2006, an increase of about 4.9 million during the Bush administration. The Census defines the poverty line for a family of four as \$20,614 in 2006.
- **More than one in 6 American children lives in poverty.** The poverty rate for children under 18 years old was 17.4 percent in 2006, statistically unchanged from the previous year. While the number of children living in poverty has increased by 10.7 percent during the first six years of the Bush administration, the number of children receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) has declined by 22.2 percent over the same time period, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

- **The poverty rate was 24.2 percent for blacks in 2006 and 20.6 percent for Hispanics,** very high poverty rates compared with that of the population as a whole.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE**

- **The percentage of uninsured Americans rose to 15.8 percent in 2006 from 15.3 percent in 2005.** The number of uninsured Americans also grew, from 44.8 million in 2005 to 47.0 million in 2006.
- **The percentage of uninsured Americans has grown from 13.7 percent in the year 2000.** The number of uninsured Americans has also grown by 8.6 million persons since the start of the decade. More Americans are now without health insurance than at any point since the Census Bureau began collecting comparable data starting in 1987.
- **The number of children without health insurance increased by over 600,000 between 2005 and 2006.** The percentage of uninsured children also grew, from 10.9 percent in 2005 to 11.7 percent in 2006. This is the second consecutive year in which the number and percentage of children without health insurance has increased. Since the year 2000, the number of uninsured children has grown by over 250,000.

*The Joint Economic Committee, established under the Employment Act of 1946, was created by Congress to review economic conditions and to analyze the effectiveness of economic policy.*

[www.jec.senate.gov](http://www.jec.senate.gov)

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