

## DEFENSE

### **1) Increase Defense Spending On Special Operations, Civil Affairs, Information Operations, Foreign Language Training, Cultural Awareness, and Human Intelligence Rebuild the Military for 21st Century Tasks:**

As we rebuild our armed forces, we must not simply recreate the military of the Cold War era. Obama believes that we must build up our special operations forces, civil affairs, information operations, and other units and capabilities that remain in chronic short supply; invest in foreign language training, cultural awareness, and human intelligence and other needed counterinsurgency and stabilization skill sets; and create a more robust capacity to train, equip, and advise foreign security forces, so that local allies are better prepared to confront mutual threats.

### **2) Increase Size of the Army by 65,000 and the Marines by 27,000**

**Expand to Meet Military Needs on the Ground:** Barack Obama supports plans to increase the size of the Army by 65,000 soldiers and the Marines by 27,000 troops. Increasing our end strength will help units retrain and re-equip properly between deployments and decrease the strain on military families.

### **3) Establish A Military Families Advisory Board To Alert Policy Makers of Family Concerns Lighten the Burdens on Our Brave Troops and Their Families:**

An Obama administration will create a Military Families Advisory Board to provide a conduit for military families' concerns to be brought to the attention of senior policymakers and the public. Obama will end the Bush administration's stop-loss policy and establish predictability in deployments so that active duty and reserves know what they can and must expect.

### **4) Increase Spending in Airpower Capabilities**

**Preserve Global Reach in the Air:** We must preserve our unparalleled airpower capabilities to deter and defeat any conventional competitors, swiftly respond to crises across the globe, and support our ground forces. We need greater investment in advanced technology ranging from the revolutionary, like Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and electronic warfare capabilities, to essential systems like the C-17 cargo and KC-X air refueling aircraft, which provide the backbone of our ability to extend global power.

### **5) Increase Spending On Naval Forces**

**Maintain Power Projection at Sea:** We must recapitalize our naval forces, replacing aging ships and modernizing existing platforms, while adapting them to the 21st century. Obama will add to the Maritime Pre-Positioning Force Squadrons to support operations ashore and invest in smaller, more capable ships, providing the agility to operate close to shore and the reach to rapidly deploy Marines to global crises.

### **6) Increase Spending On National Guard**

Barack Obama will provide the National Guard with the equipment it needs for foreign and domestic emergencies and time to restore and refit before deploying. He will make the head of the National Guard a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to ensure concerns of our citizen soldiers reach the level they mandate. He will ensure that reservists and Guard members are treated fairly when it comes to employment, health, and education benefits.

### **7) Build A Civilian Assistance Corps of 25,000 Volunteers**

**Create a Civilian Assistance Corps (CAC):** An Obama administration will set a goal of creating a national CAC of 25,000 personnel. This corps of civilian volunteers with special skill, sets (doctors, lawyers, engineers, city planners, agriculture specialists, police, etc.) would be organized to provide each federal agency with a pool of volunteer experts willing to deploy in times of need at home and

abroad.

**8) Increase Humanitarian Activities At The Regional and Local Level (he recently announced \$2 billion for refugee aid in Iraq)**

**Organize to Help Our Partners and Allies in Need:** An Obama administration will expand humanitarian activities that build friends and allies at the regional and local level (such as during the response to the tsunami in South and Southeast Asia), and win hearts and minds in the process.

**ECONOMY**

**9) Provide an Additional Tax Rebates To American Workers (\$20 Billion)**

**Provide Additional Tax Rebates to American Workers:** The economy has continued to weaken significantly, despite congressional action to provide immediate tax rebates to American consumers. **Stimulus: \$20 billion.**

**10) Increased Mortgage Counseling And Refinancing Help (\$10 Billion)**

**Establish a \$10 billion Foreclosure Prevention Fund:** Given the downturn in the economy, Obama is calling for immediate creation of his Foreclosure Prevention Fund that will dramatically increase emergency pre-foreclosure counseling, and will help families facing foreclosure to responsibly refinance their mortgages or sell their homes. Obama's plan will not help speculators, people buying vacation homes or people that falsely represented their incomes. It is meant to help responsible homeowners through this difficult period. **Stimulus: \$10 billion.**

**11) Money To State and Local Governments Hardest Hit By Foreclosures To Assistance In Declining Property Values**

**Provide \$10 billion in Relief for State and Local Governments Hardest-Hit by the Housing Crisis to Prevent Cuts in Vital Services:** Because of the housing crisis and the weakening economy, many state and local governments are facing significant revenue shortfalls. Barack Obama believes that in the areas hardest-hit by the housing crisis we should provide immediate, temporary funding to state and local governments so that the decline in property values does not cause them to slash critical public services and cut vital infrastructure spending. **Stimulus: \$10 billion.**

**12) Temporary Extension of Unemployment Insurance For Those Who Have Exhausted Benefits**

**Extend and Expand Unemployment Insurance:** Barack Obama believes we must extend and strengthen the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program to address the needs of the long-term unemployed, who currently make up nearly one-fifth of the unemployed and are often older workers who have lost their jobs in manufacturing or other industries and have a difficult time finding new employment. Expanding UI is one of the most effective ways to combat economic turmoil; every dollar invested in UI benefits results in \$1.73 in economic output. Obama is calling for a temporary expansion of the UI program for those who have exhausted their current eligibility. **Stimulus: \$10 billion.**

**13) \$1,000 Tax Credit For 150 Million Working Families**

**Provide a Tax Cut for Working Families:** Obama will restore fairness to the tax code and provide 150 million workers the tax relief they need. Obama will create a new "Making Work Pay" tax credit of up to \$500 per person, or \$1,000 per working family. The "Making Work Pay" tax credit will completely eliminate income taxes for 10 million Americans.

**14) Eliminate Income Taxes For Seniors Making Less Than \$50,0000**

**Eliminate Income Taxes for Seniors Making Less than \$50,000:** Barack Obama will eliminate all

income taxation of seniors making less than \$50,000 per year. This proposal will eliminate income taxes for 7 million seniors and provide these seniors with an average savings of \$1,400 each year. Under the Obama plan, 27 million American seniors will also not need to file an income tax return.

#### **15) Simplified Tax Form Will Save \$2 Billion In Tax Preparer Fees**

**Simplify Tax Filings for Middle Class Americans:** Obama will dramatically simplify tax filings so that millions of Americans will be able to do their taxes in less than five minutes. Obama will ensure that the IRS uses the information it already gets from banks and employers to give taxpayers the option of pre-filled tax forms to verify, sign and return. Experts estimate that the Obama proposal will save Americans up to 200 million total hours of work and aggravation and up to \$2 billion in tax preparer fees.

#### **16) Increase Money And Training to Workers Hurt By Imports**

**Improve Transition Assistance:** To help all workers adapt to a rapidly changing economy, Obama would update the existing system of Trade Adjustment Assistance by extending it to service industries, creating flexible education accounts to help workers retrain, and providing retraining assistance for workers in sectors of the economy vulnerable to dislocation before they lose their jobs.

#### **17) Grants To Businesses With New Ideas To Increase Jobs**

**Invest in our Next Generation Innovators and Job Creators:** Obama will create an Advanced Manufacturing Fund to identify and invest in the most compelling advanced manufacturing strategies. The Fund will have a peer-review selection and award process based on the Michigan 21st Century Jobs Fund, a state-level initiative that has awarded over \$125 million to Michigan businesses with the most innovative proposals to create new products and new jobs in the state

#### **18) Double Funding For Free Consulting For Businesses To Improve Their Manufacturing.**

**Double Funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership:** The Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) works with manufacturers across the country to improve efficiency, implement new technology and strengthen company growth. This highly-successful program has engaged in more than 350,000 projects across the country and in 2006 alone, helped create and protect over 50,000 jobs. But despite this success, funding for MEP has been slashed by the Bush administration. Barack Obama will double funding for the MEP so its training centers can continue to bolster the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers.

#### **19) \$150 Billion in 10 Years To Create 5 Million New Jobs In Green Technologies**

**Invest In A Clean Energy Economy And Create 5 Million New Green Jobs:** Obama will invest \$150 billion over 10 years to advance the next generation of biofuels and fuel infrastructure, accelerate the commercialization of plug-in hybrids, promote development of commercial scale renewable energy, invest in low emissions coal plants, and begin transition to a new digital electricity grid. The plan will also invest in America's highly-skilled manufacturing workforce and manufacturing centers to ensure that American workers have the skills and tools they need to pioneer the first wave of green technologies that will be in high demand throughout the world.

#### **20) Job Training In Green Technology For Disadvantaged Youths and Others**

**Create New Job Training Programs for Clean Technologies:** The Obama plan will increase funding for federal workforce training programs and direct these programs to incorporate green technologies training, such as advanced manufacturing and weatherization training, into their efforts to help Americans find and retain stable, high-paying jobs. Obama will also create an energy-focused youth jobs program to invest in disconnected and disadvantaged youth.

### **21) Require 25% Of Electricity To Be From Renewable Sources By 2025**

**Boost the Renewable Energy Sector and Create New Jobs:** The Obama plan will create new federal policies, and expand existing ones, that have been proven to create new American jobs. Obama will create a federal Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) that will require 25 percent of American electricity be derived from renewable sources by 2025, which has the potential to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs on its own.

### **22) Extend The Production Tax Credit For Renewable Energy Used By Farmers and Investors**

**Boost the Renewable Energy Sector and Create New Jobs:** Obama will also extend the Production Tax Credit, a credit used successfully by American farmers and investors to increase renewable energy production and create new local jobs.

### **23) A National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank (\$60 Billion/ 10 Years)**

**Create a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank:** Barack Obama will address the infrastructure challenge by creating a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank to expand and enhance, not supplant, existing federal transportation investments. This independent entity will be directed to invest in our nation's most challenging transportation infrastructure needs. The Bank will receive an infusion of federal money, \$60 billion over 10 years, to provide financing to transportation infrastructure projects across the nation. These projects will create up to two million new direct and indirect jobs per year and stimulate approximately \$35 billion per year in new economic activity.

### **24) Double Funding In Basic Science Research**

**Invest in the Sciences:** Barack Obama supports doubling federal funding for basic research and changing the posture of our federal government from being one of the most anti-science administrations in American history to one that embraces science and technology. This will foster home-grown innovation, help ensure the competitiveness of US technology-based businesses, and ensure that 21st century jobs can and will grow in America.

### **25) Make R & D Tax Credit Permanent**

**Make the Research and Development Tax Credit Permanent:** Barack Obama wants investments in a skilled research and development workforce and technology infrastructure to be supported here in America so that American workers and communities will benefit. Obama wants to make the Research and Development tax credit permanent so that firms can rely on it when making decisions to invest in domestic R&D over multi-year timeframes.

### **26) Tax Incentives and Loans To Provide Every Community With Broadband**

**Deploy Next-Generation Broadband:** Barack Obama believes we can get broadband to every community in America through a combination of reform of the Universal Service Fund, better use of the nation's wireless spectrum, promotion of next-generation facilities, technologies and applications, and new tax and loan incentives.

### **27) Eliminate Capitol Gain Taxes On Start Up and Small Businesses**

**Provide Tax Relief for Small Businesses and Start Up Companies:** Barack Obama will eliminate all capital gains taxes on start-up and small businesses to encourage innovation and job creation. Obama will also support small business owners by providing a \$500 "Making Work Pay" tax credit to almost every worker in America. Self-employed small business owners pay both the employee and the employer side of the payroll tax, and this measure will reduce the burdens of this double taxation.

### **28) Increase The Number of Business Incubators for Entrepreneurs In Disadvantaged Communities (\$250 million/yr)**

**Create a National Network of Public-Private Business Incubators:** Barack Obama will support entrepreneurship and spur job growth by creating a national network of public-private business incubators. Business incubators facilitate the critical work of entrepreneurs in creating start-up companies. Obama will invest \$250 million per year to increase the number and size of incubators in disadvantaged communities throughout the country.

### **29) Guarantee The Right To Unionize, and Strike**

**Ensure Freedom to Unionize:** Obama believes that workers should have the freedom to choose whether to join a union without harassment or intimidation from their employers. Obama cosponsored and is strong advocate for the Employee Free Choice Act, a bipartisan effort to assure that workers can exercise their right to organize. He will continue to fight for EFCA's passage and sign it into law.

**Fight Attacks on Workers' Right to Organize:** Obama has fought the Bush National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) efforts to strip workers of their right to organize. He is a cosponsor of legislation to overturn the NLRB's "Kentucky River" decisions classifying hundreds of thousands of nurses, construction, and professional workers as "supervisors" who are not protected by federal labor laws.

**Protect Striking Workers:** Obama supports the right of workers to bargain collectively and strike if necessary. He will work to ban the permanent replacement of striking workers, so workers can stand up for themselves without worrying about losing their livelihoods.

### **30) Increase Minimum Wage to \$9.50 By 2011 and Index It To Inflation**

**Raise the Minimum Wage:** Barack Obama will raise the minimum wage, index it to inflation and increase the Earned Income Tax Credit to make sure that full-time workers earn a living wage that allows them to raise their families and pay for basic needs

**Increase the Minimum Wage:** As president, Obama will raise the minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour by 2011 and index it to inflation so full-time workers can earn a living wage that allows them to raise their families and pay for basic needs such as food, transportation, and housing – things so many people take for granted.

### **31) New Incentives For Lenders To Buy or Refinance Existing Mortgages and Convert Them Into 30-Year Fixed Mortgages**

**Create a New FHA Housing Security Program:** Barack Obama strongly supports the efforts of Senate Banking Committee Chair Chris Dodd (D-CT) to create a new Federal Housing Administration (FHA) program that will provide meaningful incentives for lenders to buy or refinance existing mortgages and convert them into stable 30-year fixed mortgages. This plan provides an important federal backstop – not a bailout – to this growing national problem. Neither lenders nor homeowners would receive a windfall from this plan.

### **32) 10% Universal Mortgage Credit (avg \$500) For Homeowners Who Do Not Itemize Tax Deductions**

**Create a Universal Mortgage Credit:** Obama will create a 10 percent universal mortgage credit to provide homeowners who do not itemize tax relief. This credit will provide an average of \$500 to 10 million homeowners, the majority of whom earn less than \$50,000 per year.

### **33) Increase Funding To State and Federal Enforcement Agencies To Stop Mortgage Fraud**

**Ensure More Accountability in the Subprime Mortgage Industry:** Obama has been closely monitoring the subprime mortgage situation for years, and introduced comprehensive legislation over a

year ago to fight mortgage fraud and protect consumers against abusive lending practices. Obama's STOP FRAUD Act provides the first federal definition of mortgage fraud, increases funding for federal and state law enforcement programs, creates new criminal penalties for mortgage professionals found guilty of fraud, and requires industry insiders to report suspicious activity.

### **34) Create A Simple Standardized Measuring Tool To Make It Easy To Compare Home Mortgages (Homeowner Obligation Made Explicit)**

**Mandate Accurate Loan Disclosure:** Obama will create a Homeowner Obligation Made Explicit (HOME) score, which will provide potential borrowers with a simplified, standardized borrower metric (similar to APR) for home mortgages. The HOME score will allow individuals to easily compare various mortgage products and understand the full cost of the loan.

### **35) A Fund To Help Innocent Homeowners Avoid Foreclosures**

**Create Fund to Help Homeowners Avoid Foreclosures:** Obama will create a fund to help people refinance their mortgages and provide comprehensive supports to innocent homeowners. The fund will be partially paid for by Obama's increased penalties on lenders who act irresponsibly and commit fraud.

### **36) Eliminate The Provision That Prevents Bankruptcy Courts From Modifying an Individuals Mortgage Payments Which Protects The Sub-Prime Mortgage Industry**

**Close Bankruptcy Loophole for Mortgage Companies:** Obama will work to eliminate the provision that prevents bankruptcy courts from modifying an individual's mortgage payments. Obama believes that the subprime mortgage industry, which has engaged in dangerous and sometimes unscrupulous business practices, should not be shielded by outdated federal law.

### **37) Create A 5-Star Credit Card Rating System So Consumers Can Easily Understand Major Provisions of a Credit Card Offer**

**Create a Credit Card Rating System to Improve Disclosure:** Obama will create a credit card rating system, modeled on five-star systems used for other consumer products, to provide consumers an easily identifiable ranking of credit cards, based on the card's features. Credit card companies will be required to display the rating on all application and contract materials, enabling consumers to quickly understand all of the major provisions of a credit card without having to rely exclusively on fine print in lengthy documents.

### **38) Establish A Credit Card Bill Of Rights: Ban Unilateral Changers, Apply Interest Rate Changes Only To Future Debt, Prohibit Interest on Fees, Prohibit "Universal Defaults", Require Prompt & Fair Crediting of Cardholder Payments**

**Establish a Credit Card Bill of Rights to Protect Consumers:** Obama will create a Credit Card Bill of Rights to protect consumers. The Obama plan will:

Ban Unilateral Changes

Apply Interest Rate Increases Only to Future Debt

Prohibit Interest on Fees

Prohibit "Universal Defaults"

Require Prompt and Fair Crediting of Cardholder Payments

### **39) Cap Interest Rates On Payday Loans To 36%**

**Cap Outlandish Interest Rates on Payday Loans and Improve Disclosure:** Obama supports extending a 36 percent interest cap to all Americans. Obama will require lenders to provide clear and simplified information about loan fees, payments and penalties, which is why he'll require lenders to

provide this information during the application process.

**40) Encourage Banks And Credit Unions To Make Small Consumer Loans To Drive Unscrupulous Lenders Out Of Business**

**Encourage Responsible Lending Institutions to Make Small Consumer Loans:** Obama will encourage banks, credit unions and Community Development Financial Institutions to provide affordable short-term and small-dollar loans and to drive unscrupulous lenders out of business.

**41) Create An Exemption In Bankruptcy Law For Those Who Prove They Filed Because Of Medical Expenses**

**Reform Bankruptcy Laws to Protect Families Facing a Medical Crisis:** Obama will create an exemption in bankruptcy law for individuals who can prove they filed for bankruptcy because of medical expenses. This exemption will create a process that forgives the debt and lets the individuals get back on their feet.

**42) To Expand Family And Medical Leave Act To Cover Businesses With 25 or More Employees (now 50) and to cover Elder Care Needs, 24 Hours A Year To Participate In Children's Academic Activities, and To Address Domestic Violence**

**Expand the Family and Medical Leave Act:** The FMLA covers only certain employees of employers with 50 or more employees. Obama will expand it to cover businesses with 25 or more employees. He will expand the FMLA to cover more purposes as well, including allowing workers to take leave for elder care needs; allowing parents up to 24 hours of leave each year to participate in their children's academic activities; and expanding FMLA to cover leave for employees to address domestic violence.

**43) Double Federal Funding For High-Quality After School Programs**

**Expand High-Quality Afterschool Opportunities:** Obama will double funding for the main federal support for afterschool programs, the 21st Century Learning Centers program, to serve a million more children. Obama will include measures to maximize performance and effectiveness across grantees nationwide.

**44) Make Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit Refundable and Allow Low-Income Families To Receive 50% Credit For Child Care Expenses**

**Expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit:** The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit provides too little relief to families that struggle to afford child care expenses. Obama will reform the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by making it refundable and allowing low-income families to receive up to a 50 percent credit for their child care expenses.

**45) Make Federal Government Model For Flexible Work Schedules**

**Expand Flexible Work Arrangements:** Obama will create a program to inform businesses about the benefits of flexible work schedules; help businesses create flexible work opportunities; and increase federal incentives for telecommuting. Obama will also make the federal government a model employer in terms of adopting flexible work schedules and permitting employees to request flexible arrangements.

**EDUCATION**

**46) Early Learning Challenge Grants To Support Children From Zero to Five**

**Zero to Five Plan:** Obama's comprehensive "Zero to Five" plan will provide critical support to young children and their parents. Unlike other early childhood education plans, Obama's plan places key emphasis at early care and education for infants, which is essential for children to be ready to enter kindergarten. Obama will create Early Learning Challenge Grants to promote state "zero to five" efforts and help states move toward voluntary, universal pre-school.

#### **47) Quadruple Early Head Start**

**Expand Early Head Start and Head Start:** Obama will quadruple Early Head Start, increase Head Start funding and improve quality for both.

#### **48) Provide Affordable High Quality Child Care**

**Affordable, High-Quality Child Care:** Obama will also provide affordable and high-quality child care to ease the burden on working families

#### **49) Increase Funding and Accountability for No Child left Behind**

**Reform No Child Left Behind:** Obama will reform NCLB, which starts by funding the law. Obama believes teachers should not be forced to spend the academic year preparing students to fill in bubbles on standardized tests. He will improve the assessments used to track student progress to measure readiness for college and the workplace and improve student learning in a timely, individualized manner. Obama will also improve NCLB's accountability system so that we are supporting schools that need improvement, rather than punishing them.

#### **50) Make Math and Science Education A Priority**

**Make Math and Science Education a National Priority:** Obama will recruit math and science degree graduates to the teaching profession and will support efforts to help these teachers learn from professionals in the field. He will also work to ensure that all children have access to a strong science curriculum at all grade levels.

#### **51) Provide Extra Funding To School Districts With High Drop Out Rates**

**Address the Dropout Crisis:** Obama will address the dropout crisis by passing his legislation to provide funding to school districts to invest in intervention strategies in middle school - strategies such as personal academic plans, teaching teams, parent involvement, mentoring, intensive reading and math instruction, and extended learning time.

#### **52) Expand After School Programs**

**Expand High-Quality Afterschool Opportunities:** Obama will double funding for the main federal support for afterschool programs, the 21st Century Learning Centers program, to serve one million more children.

#### **53) Expand Summer Learning Programs For Disadvantaged Students**

**Expand Summer Learning Opportunities:** Obama's "STEP UP" plan addresses the achievement gap by supporting summer learning opportunities for disadvantaged children through partnerships between local schools and community organizations.

#### **54) 4-Year Undergraduate and 2-Year Graduate Scholarships For Those Who Teach In A High Need Field or Location**

**Recruit Teachers:** Obama will create new Teacher Service Scholarships that will cover four years of undergraduate or two years of graduate teacher education, including high-quality alternative programs for mid-career recruits in exchange for teaching for at least four years in a high-need field or location.

**55) Teacher Residency Programs That Will Provide 30,000 Well-Prepared Recruits To High Need Schools**

**Prepare Teachers:** Obama will require all schools of education to be accredited. He will also create a voluntary national performance assessment so we can be sure that every new educator is trained and ready to walk into the classroom and start teaching effectively. Obama will also create Teacher Residency Programs that will supply 30,000 exceptionally well-prepared recruits to high-need schools.

**56) Funds to Pair Experienced Teachers With New Recruits and Paid Common Planning To Share Best Practices**

**Retain Teachers:** To support our teachers, Obama's plan will expand mentoring programs that pair experienced teachers with new recruits. He will also provide incentives to give teachers paid common planning time so they can collaborate to share best practices.

**57) Increase Teachers Pay For Those Working In Underserved Areas or Consistently Excel in the Classroom**

**Reward Teachers:** Obama will promote new and innovative ways to increase teacher pay that are developed with teachers, not imposed on them. Districts will be able to design programs that reward accomplished educators who serve as a mentor to new teachers with a salary increase. Districts can reward teachers who work in underserved places like rural areas and inner cities. And if teachers consistently excel in the classroom, that work can be valued and rewarded as well.

**58) Eliminating The Financial Aid Application By Allowing Families To Apply By Checking a Box On Their Tax Form**

**Simplify the Application Process for Financial Aid:** Obama will streamline the financial aid process by eliminating the current federal financial aid application and enabling families to apply simply by checking a box on their tax form, authorizing their tax information to be used, and eliminating the need for a separate application.

**59) \$4,000 Tax Credit for College Education**

**Make College More Affordable:** Obama will help make college more affordable and accessible by creating a new American Opportunity Tax Credit. This universal and fully refundable credit will ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for most Americans, and will cover two-thirds of the cost of tuition at the average public college or university.

**60) Grants To Community Colleges for New Degrees And To Increase Transfer Students to 4-Year Schools**

**Strengthen Community Colleges:** Almost half of all college students with disabilities attend public two-year institutions, particularly community colleges. Obama will create a Community College Partnership Program to strengthen community colleges by providing grants to (a) conduct more thorough analysis of the types of skills and technical education that are in high demand from students and local industry; (b) implement new associate of arts degree programs that cater to emerging industry and technical career demands; and (c) reward those institutions that graduate more students and also increase their numbers of transfer students to four-year institutions. These efforts will ensure that community college students are able to directly use their skills in the workforce following graduation, and be prepared to continue their higher education. And the grants will support programs that facilitate transfers from two-year institutions to four-year institutions

## **61) Support and Reinvest in Arts Education**

**Reinvest in Arts Education:** To remain competitive in the global economy, America needs to reinvigorate the kind of creativity and innovation that has made this country great. To do so, we must nourish our children's creative skills. In addition to giving our children the science and math skills they need to compete in the new global context, we should also encourage the ability to think creatively that comes from a meaningful arts education. Unfortunately, many school districts are cutting instructional time for art and music education. Barack Obama believes that the arts should be a central part of effective teaching and learning. To support greater arts education, Obama will:

**Expand Public/Private Partnerships Between Schools and Arts Organizations:** Barack Obama will increase resources for the U.S. Department of Education's Arts Education Model Development and Dissemination Grants, which develop public/private partnerships between schools and arts organizations. Obama will also engage the foundation and corporate community to increase support for public/private partnerships.

**Create an Artist Corps:** Barack Obama supports the creation of an "Artist Corps" of young artists trained to work in low-income schools and their communities. Studies in Chicago have demonstrated that test scores improved faster for students enrolled in low-income schools that link arts across the curriculum than scores for students in schools lacking such programs.

**Publicly Champion the Importance of Arts Education:** As president, Barack Obama will use the bully pulpit and the example he will set in the White House to promote the importance of arts and arts education in America. Not only is arts education indispensable for success in a rapidly changing, high skill, information economy, but studies show that arts education raises test scores in other subject areas as well.

## **Energy/Environment**

### **62) Reduce Carbon Emission 80% by 2050**

**Cap and Trade:** Obama supports implementation of a market-based cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon emissions by the amount scientists say is necessary: 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Obama's cap-and-trade system will require all pollution credits to be auctioned. A 100 percent auction ensures that all polluters pay for every ton of emissions they release, rather than giving these emission rights away to coal and oil companies. Some of the revenue generated by auctioning allowances will be used to support the development of clean energy, to invest in energy efficiency improvements, and to address transition costs, including helping American workers affected by this economic transition.

### **63) Incentives To Reward Forest Owners, Farmers and Ranchers to Plant Trees, Restore Grasslands and capture Carbon Dioxide from the Atmosphere**

**Confront Deforestation and Promote Carbon Sequestration:** Obama will develop domestic incentives that reward forest owners, farmers, and ranchers when they plant trees, restore grasslands, or undertake farming practices that capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

### **64) Invest \$150 Billion over 10 Years In Clean Energy**

**Invest \$150 Billion over 10 Years in Clean Energy:** Obama will invest \$150 billion over 10 years to advance the next generation of biofuels and fuel infrastructure, accelerate the commercialization of plug-in hybrids, promote development of commercial-scale renewable energy, invest in low-emissions coal plants, and begin the transition to a new digital electricity grid. A principal focus of this fund will be devoted to ensuring that technologies that are developed in the U.S. are rapidly commercialized in the U.S. and deployed around the globe.

### **65) Double Energy Research and Development Spending**

**Double Energy Research and Development Funding:** Obama will double science and research

funding for clean energy projects including those that make use of our biomass, solar and wind resources.

**66) Job Training For Clean Technology Jobs and a Green Jobs Corps For Disadvantaged Youth Invest in a Skilled Clean Technologies Workforce:** Obama will use proceeds from the cap-and-trade auction program to invest in job training and transition programs to help workers and industries adapt to clean technology development and production. Obama will also create an energy-focused Green Jobs Corps to connect disconnected and disadvantaged youth with job skills for a high-growth industry.

**67) Free Consulting To Help US Industries Produce Green Products Convert our Manufacturing Centers into Clean Technology Leaders:** Obama will establish a federal investment program to help manufacturing centers modernize and Americans learn the new skills they need to produce green products

**68) \$10 Billion Per Year In Venture Capital For Clean Technologies Clean Technologies Deployment Venture Capital Fund:** Obama will create a Clean Technologies Venture Capital Fund to fill a critical gap in U.S. technology development. Obama will invest \$10 billion per year into this fund for five years. The fund will partner with existing investment funds and our National Laboratories to ensure that promising technologies move beyond the lab and are commercialized in the U.S

**69) 25% of Renewable Electricity by 2025 Require 25 Percent of Renewable Electricity by 2025:** Obama will establish a 25 percent federal Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to require that 25 percent of electricity consumed in the U.S. is derived from clean, sustainable energy sources, like solar, wind and geothermal by 2025.

**70) Increase Money Spent Developing Clean Coal Technology Develop and Deploy Clean Coal Technology:** Obama will significantly increase the resources devoted to the commercialization and deployment of low-carbon coal technologies. Obama will consider whatever policy tools are necessary, including standards that ban new traditional coal facilities, to ensure that we move quickly to commercialize and deploy low carbon coal technology.

**71) Tax Incentives, Grants and Government Contracts To Develop Cellulosic Ethanol (Biofuels) Deploy Cellulosic Ethanol:** Obama will invest federal resources, including tax incentives, cash prizes and government contracts into developing the most promising technologies with the goal of getting the first two billion gallons of cellulosic ethanol into the system by 2013.

**72) Incentives To Expand Locally-Owned Biofuel Refineries Expand Locally-Owned Biofuel Refineries:** Less than 10 percent of new ethanol production today is from farmer-owned refineries. New ethanol refineries help jumpstart rural economies. Obama will create a number of incentives for local communities to invest in their biofuels refineries.

**73) 10% Reduction in the Amount of Carbon Fuels Emits by 2020 Establish a National Low Carbon Fuel Standard:** Barack Obama will establish a National Low Carbon Fuel Standard to speed the introduction of low-carbon non-petroleum fuels. The standard requires fuels suppliers to reduce the carbon their fuel emits by ten percent by 2020.

**74) 36 Billion Gallons of Renewable Fuels by 2022 and 60 Billion Gallons of Advanced Biofuels by 2030**

**Increase Renewable Fuel Standard:** Obama will require 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels to be included in the fuel supply by 2022 and will increase that to at least 60 billion gallons of advanced biofuels like cellulosic ethanol by 2030.

**75) Double Fuel Economy Standards Within 18 Years Using Tax Credits and Loan Guarantees**

**Increase Fuel Economy Standards:** Obama will double fuel economy standards within 18 years. His plan will provide retooling tax credits and loan guarantees for domestic auto plants and parts manufacturers, so that they can build new fuel-efficient cars rather than overseas companies. Obama will also invest in advanced vehicle technology such as advanced lightweight materials and new engines.

**76) All New Buildings Carbon Neutral or Zero Emissions, 50% More Energy Efficient by 2030, and Set National Building Efficiency Goals:**

Barack Obama will establish a goal of making all new buildings carbon neutral, or produce zero emissions, by 2030. He'll also establish a national goal of improving new building efficiency by 50 percent and existing building efficiency by 25 percent over the next decade to help us meet the 2030 goal.

**77) Grants To States and Localities Who Take First Steps To Implement New Building Codes**

**Establish a Grant Program for Early Adopters:** Obama will create a competitive grant program to award those states and localities that take the first steps to implement new building codes that prioritize energy efficiency.

**78) Investments In Utility Grid To Accommodate Modern Energy Requirements**

**Invest in a Digital Smart Grid:** Obama will pursue a major investment in our utility grid to enable a tremendous increase in renewable generation and accommodate modern energy requirements, such as reliability, smart metering, and distributed storage

**ETHICS**

**79) Centralized Internet Database of Lobbying Reports, Ethics Records and Campaign Finance Filings**

**Centralize Ethics and Lobbying Information for Voters:** Obama will create a centralized Internet database of lobbying reports, ethics records, and campaign finance filings in a searchable, sortable and downloadable format.

**80) Create An Independent Watchdog Agency To Oversee The Investigation of Congressional Ethics Violations**

**Require Independent Monitoring of Lobbying Laws and Ethics Rules:** Obama will use the power of the presidency to fight for an independent watchdog agency to oversee the investigation of congressional ethics so that the public can be assured that ethics complaints will be investigated.

**81) On-Line Database Showing How Much Government Contractors Spend on Lobbying, What Contracts They Get, and How Well They Complete Them**

**Create a Public "Contracts and Influence" Database:** As president, Obama will create a "contracts and influence" database that will disclose how much federal contractors spend on lobbying, and what contracts they are getting and how well they complete them.

**82) On-Line Database Of Specialized Corporate Tax Breaks or Tax Earmarks**

**Expose Special Interest Tax Breaks to Public Scrutiny:** Barack Obama will ensure that any tax breaks for corporate recipients — or tax earmarks — are also publicly available on the Internet in an

easily searchable format.

**83) End No-Bid Contracts On All Over \$25,000**

**End Abuse of No-Bid Contracts:** Barack Obama will end abuse of no-bid contracts by requiring that nearly all contract orders over \$25,000 be competitively awarded.

**84) End Bills Rushed Thru Congress By Making All Bills Available On White House Web Site for 5 Days Before Signing Into Law**

**Sunlight Before Signing:** Too often bills are rushed through Congress and to the president before the public has the opportunity to review them. As president, Obama will not sign any non-emergency bill without giving the American public an opportunity to review and comment on the White House website for five days.

**85) All Congressional Spending Earmarks Must Show Legislators Name and Justification Before Approved By Complete Senate**

**Shine Light on Earmarks and Pork Barrel Spending:** Obama's Transparency and Integrity in Earmarks Act will shed light on all earmarks by disclosing the name of the legislator who asked for each earmark, along with a written justification, 72 hours before they can be approved by the full Senate.

**86) Periodic National Broadband Townhall Meetings For Cabinet Officials to Discuss Issues Before Their Agencies**

**Hold 21st Century Fireside Chats:** Obama will bring democracy and policy directly to the people by requiring his Cabinet officials to have periodic national broadband townhall meetings to discuss issues before their agencies.

**87) Executive Departments and Agencies Will Hold Their Debates In Public or For View On The Web**

**Conduct Regulatory Agency Business in Public:** Obama will require his appointees who lead the executive branch departments and rulemaking agencies to conduct the significant business of the agency in public, so that any citizen can see in person or watch on the Internet these debates.

**88) No Political Appointees Will Be Permitted To Work on Regulations or Contracts Directly and Substantially Related to their Employer For 2 Years and Can Not Lobby The Executive Branch For The Remainder of the Administration**

**Close the Revolving Door on Former and Future Employers:** No political appointees in an Obama administration will be permitted to work on regulations or contracts directly and substantially related to their prior employer for two years. And no political appointee will be able to lobby the executive branch after leaving government service during the remainder of the administration.

**89) New Government Hires Must Sign A Form Affirming That No Political Appointee Offered Them A Job Solely on the Basis of Political Affiliation or Contribution**

**Free Career Officials from the Influence of Politics:** Obama will issue an executive order asking all new hires at the agencies to sign a form affirming that no political appointee offered them the job solely on the basis of political affiliation or contribution.

**FAMILY**

### **90) Expand Earned Income Tax Credit For Minimum Wage Workers and For Workers Paying Child Support**

**Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit:** In both the Illinois State Senate and the U.S. Senate, Obama has championed efforts to expand the EITC, which is one of the most successful anti-poverty programs to date. As president, Obama will reward work by increasing the number of working parents eligible for EITC benefits, increasing the benefit available to parents who support their children through child support payments, and reducing the EITC marriage penalty which hurts low-income families. Under the Obama plan, full-time workers making minimum wage would get an EITC benefit up to \$555, more than three times greater than the \$175 benefit they get today. If the workers are responsibly supporting their children on child support, the Obama plan would give those workers a benefit of \$1,110.

### **91) The Size Of Companies Who Have To Offer 12 Weeks of Unpaid Leave To Care For Family Member Will Decrease From 50 Employees To 25 Employees**

**Expand the Family and Medical Leave Act:** The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides eligible employees of larger employers (i.e., 50 or more employees) with 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a family member's or their own serious health condition. Barack Obama will guarantee that millions more workers have access to FMLA leave by reducing the threshold for which employers are covered from companies with 50 or more employees to those with 25 or more.

### **92) \$1.5 Billion To Encourage States To Offer Paid Leave For Employees Taking Care of Loved Ones (\$1.5 Billion)**

**Encourage States to Adopt Paid Leave:** According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, 78 percent of employees covered by the FMLA who have needed leave but have not taken it report that it is because they could not afford to take unpaid leave. Of those employees who could not afford leave, nearly 88 percent report that they would have taken leave if they had been able to receive some pay while away from work. As president, Barack Obama will initiate a 50-state strategy to encourage all of the states to adopt paid-leave systems. Obama will provide a \$1.5 billion fund to assist states with start-up costs and to help states offset the costs for employees and employers. Obama's Department of Labor will also provide technical information to the states on how to craft paid-leave programs consistent with their local needs.

### **93) Expand Working Arrangements for Flexible Work Opportunities**

**Expand Flexible Work Arrangements:** Barack Obama will address this concern by creating a program to inform businesses about the benefits of flexible work schedules for productivity and establishing positive workplaces; helping businesses create flexible work opportunities; and increasing federal incentives for telecommuting. Obama will also make the federal government a model employer in terms of adopting flexible work schedules and permitting employees to petition to request flexible arrangements.

### **94) Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act To Remove Penalties For Married Families and Crack Down On Men Avoiding Child Support**

**Strengthen Fatherhood and Families:** Since 1960, the number of American children without fathers in their lives has quadrupled, from 6 million to more than 24 million. Children without fathers in their lives are five times more likely to live in poverty and commit crime, nine times more likely to drop out of school, and 20 times more likely to end up in prison. Barack Obama has re-introduced the Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act to remove some of the government penalties on married families, crack down on men avoiding child support payments, ensure that support payments go to families instead of state bureaucracies, fund support services for fathers and their families, and support domestic violence prevention efforts. As president, Obama will sign this bill into law and

continue to implement innovative measures to strengthen families.

### **95) Assist 570,000 First Time Mothers A Year With Trained Nurses To Visit Low-Income Expectant Mothers**

**Support Parents with Young Children:** Barack Obama would expand programs like the successful Nurse-Family Partnership to all low-income, first-time mothers. The Nurse-Family Partnership provides home visits by trained registered nurses to low-income expectant mothers and their families. The trained nurses use proven methods to help improve the mental and physical health of the family by providing counseling on substance abuse, creating and achieving personal goals, and effective methods of nurturing children. Proven benefits of these types of programs include improved women's prenatal health, a reduction in childhood injuries, fewer unintended pregnancies, increased father involvement and women's employment, reduced use of welfare and food stamps, and increased children's school readiness. Researchers at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis concluded that these programs produced an average of five dollars in savings for every dollar invested and produced more than \$28,000 in net savings for every high-risk family enrolled in the program. The Obama plan would assist approximately 570,000 first-time mothers each year.

### **96) Automatic Workplace Pensions Like Be Direct Deposit IRA Accounts, Employees Can Transfer and Can Opt Out**

**Create Automatic Workplace Pensions:** Currently, 75 million working Americans (roughly half the workforce) lack employer-based retirement plans. Even when workers are given the option of joining employer-based plans, many do not take up the option because it requires considerable work to research plans and investment portfolios, and enroll in the plan. Barack Obama's retirement security plan will automatically enroll workers in a workplace pension plan. Under his plan, employers who do not currently offer a retirement plan, will be required to enroll their employees in a direct-deposit IRA account that is compatible to existing direct-deposit payroll systems. Employees may opt-out by signing a written waiver. Even after enrollment, employees will retain the right to change their savings levels, reallocate investment portfolios or end contributions to the account. Obama's plan will give options to the self-employed and new small businesses to access new easy-to-enroll savings plans and direct the IRS to deposit tax refunds into those savings plans for people who choose to save some of their refunds. Under the Obama plan when employees change jobs, their savings will be automatically rolled over into the new employer's system to ensure continued savings. Experts estimate that this program will increase the savings participation rate for low and middle-income workers from its current 15 percent level to around 80 percent.

### **97) 50% Tax Credit of the First \$1,000 of Savings For Families Under \$75,000**

**Expand Retirement Savings Incentives for Working Families:** Barack Obama will ensure savings incentives are fair to all workers by creating a generous savings match for low and middle-income Americans. Obama will expand the existing Savers Credit to match 50 percent of the first \$1,000 of savings for families that earn under \$75,000, and he will make the tax credit refundable. To help ensure that this proposal actually strengthens retirement investments, the savings match will be automatically deposited into designated personal accounts by using the account information listed on IRS tax filings. Coupled with the automatic workplace pension plan, this proposal will stimulate tens of millions of new Americans to invest for retirement. Over 80 percent of the savings incentives will go to new savers, and 75 percent of people eligible for the incentives who are expected to participate in the new program do not currently save.

### **98) Reverse Bush Tax Cuts**

**Reverse Bush Tax Cuts for the Wealthy:** Obama will protect tax cuts for poor and middle class

families, but he will reverse most of the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest taxpayers.

### **99) Support Foster Care System and Implement Long Term Options for Foster Children**

**Support and Supplement Our Struggling Foster Care System:** The foster care system is failing children who need help the most. Obama recognizes that part of the solution is to increase the quantity of foster homes, improve training for foster parents and increase coordination between law enforcement and child welfare officials so that abuse can be stopped. Young adults graduating from foster care often have a rough time living independently. One study found that within two to four years only 54% had completed high school, less than half had jobs and 25% had experienced homelessness. Obama will invest in innovative new job training and workforce development programs that will provide those in foster care with the skills necessary to compete in the modern American workforce.

## **HEALTH CARE**

### **100) Affordable, Portable, Guaranteed Eligibility Health Care for All Including Self-Employed with Financial Assistance To Those Who Cannot Afford A Plan Similar To That Now Received By Members of Congress**

**Obama's Plan to Cover Uninsured Americans:** Obama will make available a new national health plan to all Americans, including the self-employed and small businesses, to buy affordable health coverage that is similar to the plan available to members of Congress. The Obama plan will have the following features:

Guaranteed eligibility. No American will be turned away from any insurance plan because of illness or pre-existing conditions.

Comprehensive benefits. The benefit package will be similar to that offered through Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), the plan members of Congress have. The plan will cover all essential medical services, including preventive, maternity and mental health care.

Affordable premiums, co-pays and deductibles.

Subsidies. Individuals and families who do not qualify for Medicaid or SCHIP but still need financial assistance will receive an income-related federal subsidy to buy into the new public plan or purchase a private health care plan.

Simplified paperwork and reined in health costs.

Easy enrollment. The new public plan will be simple to enroll in and provide ready access to coverage.

Portability and choice. Participants in the new public plan and the National Health Insurance Exchange (see below) will be able to move from job to job without changing or jeopardizing their health care coverage.

Quality and efficiency. Participating insurance companies in the new public program will be required to report data to ensure that standards for quality, health information technology and administration are being met.

### **101) Help People Choose Health Care Options**

**National Health Insurance Exchange:** The Obama plan will create a National Health Insurance Exchange to help individuals who wish to purchase a private insurance plan. The Exchange will act as a watchdog group and help reform the private insurance market by creating rules and standards for participating insurance plans to ensure fairness and to make individual coverage more affordable and accessible. Insurers would have to issue

every applicant a policy, and charge fair and stable premiums that will not depend upon health status. The Exchange will require that all the plans offered are at least as generous as the new public plan and have the same standards for quality and efficiency. The Exchange would evaluate plans and make the differences among the plans, including cost of services, public.

### **102) Employers Required To Contribute To Employee Health Care Or Contribute To National Plan**

**Employer Contribution:** Employers that do not offer or make a meaningful contribution to the cost of quality health coverage for their employees will be required to contribute a percentage of payroll toward the costs of the national plan. Small businesses will be exempt from this requirement, and will receive a new Small Business Health Tax Credit that helps reduce health care costs for small businesses.

### **103) 50% Tax Credit Rebate On Employee Premiums Paid by Small Businesses Who**

**Support for Small Businesses:** Barack Obama will create a Small Business Health Tax Credit to provide small businesses with a refundable tax credit of up to 50 percent on premiums paid by small businesses on behalf of their employees. This new credit will provide a strong incentive to small businesses to offer high quality health care to their workers and help improve the competitiveness of America's small businesses.

### **104) Mandatory Health Coverage For All Children and Coverage for Children Up To Age 25 On Parent's Plans**

**Mandatory Coverage of Children:** Obama will require that all children have health care coverage. Obama will expand the number of options for young adults to get coverage, including allowing young people up to age 25 to continue coverage through their parents' plans.

### **105) Reimbursement of Certain Catastrophic Health Care Costs For Employers**

**Reducing Costs of Catastrophic Illnesses for Employers and Their Employees:** Catastrophic health expenditures account for a high percentage of medical expenses for private insurers. The Obama plan would reimburse employer health plans for a portion of the catastrophic costs they incur above a threshold if they guarantee such savings are used to reduce the cost of workers' premiums.

### **106) Require Hospitals To Publish Info About Their Costs, Quality and Errors**

Support disease management programs. Seventy five percent of total health care dollars are spent on patients with one or more chronic conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure. Obama will require that providers that participate in the new public plan, Medicare or the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) utilize proven disease management programs. This will improve quality of care, give doctors better information and lower costs.

Coordinate and integrate care. Over 133 million Americans have at least one chronic disease and these chronic conditions cost a staggering \$1.7 trillion yearly. Obama will support implementation of programs and encourage team care that will improve coordination and integration of care of those with chronic conditions.

Require full transparency about quality and costs. Obama will require hospitals and providers to collect and publicly report measures of health care costs and quality, including data on preventable medical errors, nurse staffing ratios, hospital-acquired infections, and disparities in care. Health plans will also be required to disclose the percentage of premiums that go to patient care as opposed to administrative costs

**107) Reduce Health Care Costs By Forcing Insurance Companies To Only A Certain Amount Profits and Administration and Allow Americans To Buy Cheaper Drugs Overseas and Repeal Ban That Prevents Government From Negotiating With Drug Companies**

**Lowering Costs by Increasing Competition in the Insurance and Drug Markets:** The insurance business today is dominated by a small group of large companies that has been gobbling up their rivals. There have been over 400 health care mergers in the last 10 years, and just two companies dominate a full third of the national market. These changes were supposed to make the industry more efficient, but instead premiums have skyrocketed by over 87 percent.

Barack Obama will prevent companies from abusing their monopoly power through unjustified price increases. His plan will force insurers to pay out a reasonable share of their premiums for patient care instead of keeping exorbitant amounts for profits and administration. His new National Health Exchange will help increase competition by insurers.

Lower prescription drug costs. The second-fastest growing type of health expenses is prescription drugs. Pharmaceutical companies are selling the exact same drugs in Europe and Canada but charging Americans more than double the price. Obama will allow Americans to buy their medicines from other developed countries if the drugs are safe and prices are lower outside the U.S. Obama will also repeal the ban that prevents the government from negotiating with drug companies, which could result in savings as high as \$30 billion. Finally, Obama will work to increase the use of generic drugs in Medicare, Medicaid, and FEHBP and prohibit big name drug companies from keeping generics out of markets.

**108) Make Mental Health Coverage Comparable To Other Health Coverage**

**Improve Mental Health Care.** Mental illness affects approximately one in five American families. The National Alliance on Mental Illness estimates that untreated mental illnesses cost the U.S. more than \$100 billion per year. As president, Obama will support mental health parity so that coverage for serious mental illnesses are provided on the same terms and conditions as other illnesses and diseases.

**109) Require Child Care Facilities To Be Lead-Safe Within 5-Years**

**Protect Our Children from Lead Poisoning.** More than 430,000 American children have dangerously high levels of lead in their blood. Lead can cause irreversible brain damage, learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and, at very high levels, seizures, coma and death. As president, Obama will protect children from lead poisoning by requiring that child care facilities be lead-safe within five years.

**110) Provide Health Care to Artists**

**Provide Health Care to Artists:** Finding affordable health coverage has often been one of the most vexing obstacles for artists and those in the creative community. Since many artists work independently or have nontraditional employment relationships, employer-based coverage is unavailable and individual policies are financially out of reach. Barack Obama's plan will provide all Americans with quality, affordable health care. His plan includes the creation of a new public program that will allow individuals and small businesses to buy affordable health care similar to that available to federal employees. His plan also creates a National Health Insurance Exchange to reform the private insurance market and allow Americans to enroll in participating private plans, which would have to provide comprehensive benefits, issue every applicant a policy, and charge fair and stable premiums. For those who still cannot afford coverage, the government will provide a subsidy. His health plan will lower costs for the typical American family by up to \$2,500 per year.

## RURAL

### **111) \$250,000 Payment Limitation To Insure The Family Farms Are Helped and Not AgriBusiness**

**Strong Safety Net for Family Farmers:** Obama will fight for farm programs that provide family farmers with stability and predictability. Obama will implement a \$250,000 payment limitation so that we help family farmers — not large corporate agribusiness. Obama will close the loopholes that allow mega farms to get around the limits by subdividing their operations into multiple paper corporations.

### **112) Protect Independent Farmers Thru Stronger Anti-Monopoly Laws**

**Prevent Anticompetitive Behavior Against Family Farms:** Obama is a strong supporter of a packer ban. When meatpackers own livestock they can manipulate prices and discriminate against independent farmers. Obama will strengthen anti-monopoly laws and strengthen producer protections to ensure independent farmers have fair access to markets, control over their production decisions, and transparency in prices.

### **113) Establish Country of Origin Labeling So American Producers Can Distinguish Their Products From Imports**

**Establish Country of Origin Labeling:** Obama supports immediate implementation of the Country of Origin Labeling law so that American producers can distinguish their products from imported ones.

### **114) Help Organic Farmers Afford To Certify Crops and Reform Crop Insurance To Not Penalize Organic Farmers**

**Encourage Organic and Local Agriculture:** Obama will help organic farmers afford to certify their crops and reform crop insurance to not penalize organic farmers. He also will promote regional food systems.

### **115) New Program To Train Young Farmers and Tax Incentives For Affording First Farm**

**Encourage Young People to Become Farmers:** Obama will establish a new program to identify and train the next generation of farmers. He will also provide tax incentives to make it easier for new farmers to afford their first farm.

### **116) Increase Incentives For Wetlands, Grasslands, Forest Protection**

**Partner with Landowners to Conserve Private Lands:** Obama will increase incentives for farmers and private landowners to conduct sustainable agriculture and protect wetlands, grasslands, and forests

### **117) Small Business Funding For Cooperative Marketing, Farmer-Owned Processing Plants, and Micro-Enterprises**

**Support Small Business Development:** Obama will provide capital for farmers to create value-added enterprises, like cooperative marketing initiatives and farmer-owned processing plants. He also will establish a small business and micro-enterprise initiative for rural America.

### **118) Modernize FCC To Promote Affordable Broadband To Rural America**

**Connect Rural America:** Barack Obama will ensure that rural Americans have access to a modern communications infrastructure. He will modernize an FCC program that supports rural phone service so that it promotes affordable broadband coverage across rural America as well.

### **119) Ensure Rural Areas Keep up on Renewable Energy Developments**

**Promote Leadership in Renewable Energy:** Obama will ensure that our rural areas continue their leadership in the renewable fuels movement. This will transform the economy, especially in rural America, which is poised to produce and refine more American biofuels and provide more wind power than ever before, and create millions of new jobs across the country.

### **120) Make Sure Rural Health Care Providers Do Not Get Paid Less For Performing The Same Procedures As In Urban Areas**

**Improve Health Care:** Rural health care providers often get less money from Medicare and Medicaid for the very same procedure performed in urban areas. Obama will work to ensure a more equitable Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement structure. He will attract providers to rural America by creating a loan forgiveness program for doctors and nurses who work in underserved rural areas. He supports increasing rural access to care by promoting health information technologies like telemedicine

### **121) Money To Encourage Teachers To Work In Rural Communities**

**Improve Rural Education:** Obama will provide incentives for talented individuals to enter the teaching profession, including increased pay for teachers who work in rural areas. Obama will create a Rural Revitalization Program to attract and retain young people to rural America. Obama will increase research and educational funding for Land Grant colleges.

### **122) Invest In Rural Infrastructure, Roads, Bridges, Etc.**

**Upgrade Rural Infrastructure:** Obama will invest in the core infrastructure, roads, bridges, locks, dams, water systems and essential air service that rural communities need.

## **SENIORS**

### **123) Increase The Maximum Amount Covered By Social Security (currently \$102,000)**

Obama is committed to ensuring Social Security is solvent and viable for the American people, now and in the future. Obama will be honest with the American people about the long-term solvency of Social Security and the ways we can address the shortfall. Obama will protect Social Security benefits for current and future beneficiaries alike. And he does not believe it is necessary or fair to hardworking seniors to raise the retirement age. Obama is strongly opposed to privatizing Social Security. Obama believes that the first place to look for ways to strengthen Social Security is the payroll tax system. Currently, the Social Security payroll tax applies to only the first \$102,000 a worker makes. Obama supports increasing the maximum amount of earnings covered by Social Security and he will work with Congress and the American people to choose a payroll tax reform package that will keep Social Security solvent for at least the next half century.

### **124) Reform Corporate Bankruptcy Laws So Corporations Cannot Issue Executive Bonuses While Cutting Worker Pensions**

**Reform Corporate Bankruptcy Laws to Protect Workers and Retirees:** Current bankruptcy laws protect banks before workers. Obama will protect pensions by putting promises to workers higher on the list of debts that companies cannot shed; ensuring that the bankruptcy courts do not demand more sacrifice from workers than executives; telling companies that they cannot issue executive bonuses while cutting worker pensions; increasing the amount of unpaid wages and benefits workers can claim in court; and limiting the circumstances under which retiree benefits can be reduced.

### **125) Eliminate Income Taxes for Lower Income Seniors**

**Eliminate Income Taxes for Seniors Making Less Than \$50,000:** Obama will eliminate all income taxation of seniors making less than \$50,000 per year. This will provide an immediate tax cut averaging \$1,400 to 7 million seniors and relieve millions from the burden of filing tax returns.

**126) Require Full Disclosure of Company Pension Investments**

**Require Full Disclosure of Company Pension Investments:** Obama will ensure that all employees who have company pensions receive detailed annual disclosures about their pension fund's investments. This will provide retirees important resources to make their pension fund more secure.

**127) Lower Drugs Costs By Closing The “Doughnut Hole” In the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program**

**Protect and Strengthen Medicare:** Obama is committed to the long-term strength of the Medicare program. He will reduce waste in the Medicare system, including eliminating subsidies to the private insurance Medicare Advantage program, and tackle fundamental health care reform to improve the quality and efficiency of our healthcare system. Obama supports closing the "doughnut hole" in the Medicare Part D prescription drug program.

**128) Lower Drugs Cost By Providing Transparency to Medicare Drug Plans**

**Provide Transparency to Medicare Prescription Drug Plans:** Many seniors are enrolled in Medicare prescription drug plans that are actually more expensive for them than other available plans. Obama will require companies to send Medicare beneficiaries a full list of the drugs and fees they paid the previous year to help seniors determine which plans can better reduce their out-of-pocket costs and improve their health.

**129) Strengthen Seniors Choices about Their Long-Term Care**

**Strengthen Long-Term Care Options:** As president, Obama will work to give seniors choices about their care, consistent with their needs, and not biased towards institutional care. He will work to reform the financing of long term care to protect seniors and families. He will work to improve the quality of elder care, including by training more nurses and health care workers.

**130) Increase Funding For Low-Income Home Energy Assistance**

**Ensure Heating Assistance:** Obama will increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) which helps low-income citizens — many of them seniors — pay their winter heating and summer cooling bills.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**131) Reverse the 2003 Ban On Enrolling Modest-Income Veterans To Receive VA Care**

**Allow All Veterans Back into the VA:** One of Obama's first acts will be reversing the 2003 ban on enrolling modest-income veterans, which has denied care to a million veterans.

**132) Combat Homelessness among Our Nation's Veterans:** Obama will establish a national "zero tolerance" policy for veterans falling into homelessness by expanding proven programs and launching innovative services to prevent veterans from falling into homelessness.

**133) Crack Down On Employers Who Commit Job Discrimination Against Guardsmen and**

## **Reservists**

**Fight Veterans Employment Discrimination:** Obama will crack down on employers who commit job discrimination against guardsmen and reservists.

### **134) Demand That The VA and Military Provide Seamless Transition from Active Duty To Civilian Life**

**Ensure a Seamless Transition:** Obama will demand that the military and the VA coordinate to provide a seamless transition from active duty to civilian life.

### **135) Hire Additional Claims Workers, and Improve Training and Accountability so that VA Benefits Decisions Are Rated Fairly and Consistently**

**Fix the Benefits Bureaucracy:** Obama will hire additional claims workers, and improve training and accountability so that VA benefit decisions are rated fairly and consistently. He also will transform the paper benefit claims process to an electronic one to reduce errors and improve timeliness.

### **136) Provide Full Funding for the VA**

**Fully Fund VA Medical Care:** Barack Obama will fully fund the VA so it has all the resources it needs to serve the veterans who need it, when they need it. Obama will establish a world-class VA Planning Division to avoid future budget shortfalls.

### **137) Expand and Strengthen Vet Centers To Provide More Counseling for Vet and Their Families**

**Expand Vet Centers:** Obama will expand and strengthen Vet Centers to provide more counseling for vets and their families.

### **138) Increase Spending On Special Care For Wounded Service Members**

**Strengthen VA Specialty Care:** Advances in technology have meant that the survival rate for U.S. servicemembers is higher now than in any previous conflict. There will be a long-term need for strengthened specialty care within the VA, including additional polytrauma centers as well as centers of excellence for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), PTSD, vision impairment, prosthetics, spinal cord injury, aging, women's health and other specialized rehabilitative care. In the Senate, Barack Obama has supported the expansion of PTSD and TBI centers of excellence and cosponsored an innovative bipartisan measure to encourage students specializing in vision care and rehabilitation to work in the VA. As president, he will expand the number of these centers of excellence and invest in specialty care.

## **Civil Rights**

### **139) Pass Equal Pay for Equal Work and Employment Non-Discrimination**

**Combat Employment Discrimination**

Obama will work to overturn the Supreme Court's recent ruling that curtails racial minorities' and women's ability to challenge pay discrimination. Obama will also pass the Fair Pay Act to ensure that women receive equal pay for equal work and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

### **140) Penalties for those engaged in voter fraud**

**End Deceptive Voting Practices**

Obama will sign into law his legislation that establishes harsh penalties for those who have engaged in

voter fraud and provides voters who have been misinformed with accurate and full information so they can vote.

#### **141) End Racial Profiling**

Obama will ban racial profiling by federal law enforcement agencies and provide federal incentives to state and local police departments to prohibit the practice.

#### **142) Job Training, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Counseling To Ex-Offenders**

Reduce Crime Recidivism by Providing Ex-Offender Support

Obama will provide job training, substance abuse and mental health counseling to ex-offenders, so that they are successfully re-integrated into society. Obama will also create a prison-to-work incentive program to improve ex-offender employment and job retention rates.

#### **143) Eliminate Sentencing Disparities In Crack and Powder Based Cocaine**

Obama believes the disparity between sentencing crack and powder-based cocaine is wrong and should be completely eliminated.

#### **144) Drug Rehabilitation for First-Time Non-Violent Offenders**

Expand Use of Drug Courts

Obama will give first-time, non-violent offenders a chance to serve their sentence, where appropriate, in the type of drug rehabilitation programs that have proven to work better than a prison term in changing bad behavior.

#### **145) Protect Gun Rights**

**Respect the Second Amendment:** Millions of hunters and shooters own and use guns each year.

Barack Obama believes the Second Amendment creates an individual right, and he respects the constitutional rights of Americans to bear arms. He will protect the rights of hunters and other law-abiding Americans to purchase, own, transport, and use guns.

#### **146) Conserve and Protect Private Land and Private Landowners**

**Private Lands/Farm Bill:** Because most land is privately owned, private landowners are the principal stewards of America's land and water. As a U.S. Senator, Barack Obama has supported conservation programs that serve as a resource to landowners and assist them with sustainable environmental planning and best land management practices. As president, Obama will make the conservation of private lands a priority. He will fight to increase funding for the Conservation Security Program and the major set-aside programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, and Grasslands Reserve Program, so that rental rates can compete with rising commodity prices. Obama will direct the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior to place a special emphasis on restoration of habitat for important game species associated with specific regions of the United States, such as bobwhite quail and Eastern and Osceola turkey habitat in the South, ruffed grouse habitat in the Northeast, and sage grouse and pronghorn antelope habitat in the West. Obama also supports the use of tax incentives and other financial mechanisms to encourage private landowners to restore and protect habitat.

## **DISABILITIES**

#### **147) Full Funding Of Americans With Disabilities Act**

**Fully Funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act:** Barack Obama has been a strong

and consistent advocate for fully funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Congress promised to shoulder 40 percent of each state's "excess cost" of educating children with disabilities, but it has never lived up to this obligation. Currently, the federal government provides less than half of the promised funding (17 percent). Children are being shortchanged, and their parents are forced to fight with cash-strapped school districts to get the free and appropriate education the IDEA promises their children. Fully funding IDEA will provide students with disabilities the public education they have a right to, and school districts will be able to provide services without cutting into their general education budgets. In addition to fully funding IDEA, Obama will ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the Act.

#### **148) Expand Early Head Start For Children With Disabilities (\$10 Billion)**

**Early Intervention for Children with Disabilities:** Children's ability to succeed in school relies on the foundation they build in their first three years. Pre-kindergarten for four-year-olds is important, but it is not enough to ensure children arrive at school ready to learn. This is particularly so for children with disabilities and/or special health care needs, who already face challenges in the early years that can set them behind their peers before they ever enter school. Barack Obama will invest \$10 billion per year in early intervention educational and developmental programs for children between zero and five. His plan will help expand Early Head Start to serve more children with disabilities, and will spur states, through programs like Early Learning Challenge Grants, to expand programs for children with disabilities, such as IDEA Part C, and integrate these programs with other early childhood programs.

#### **149) Screen All Children For 29 Potential Disorders**

**Support Universal Screening:** Roughly 90 percent of infants in the United States are screened for various potentially disabling or life-threatening conditions, but fewer than half the states screen all infants for the American College of Medical Genetics' full recommended panel of 29 disorders. Many of these conditions, if caught early, can be treated before they result in permanent impairments or even death. And parents are often unaware that the tests are available. Barack Obama believes that we should ensure that all states have comprehensive newborn screening programs. In addition, Obama supports setting a national goal to provide rescreening for all two-year-olds – the age at which some conditions, including autism spectrum disorders, begin to appear. Part of Obama's early childhood intervention plan will be directed at coordinating fragmented community programs to help provide parents with information about screening for disabilities as infants and again as two-year olds. Achieving universal screening is essential so that disabilities can be identified early enough to help children and families get the special supports and resources they need.

#### **150) Increase Enforcement Funding For Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Dept of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance**

**Increasing Funding for Enforcement:** The Bush Administration has cut funding for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), the agencies tasked with enforcing anti-discrimination laws that protect workers with disabilities. Staffing for these agencies has also been significantly reduced. As a result, while the number of complaints filed with those agencies has remained steady, the number of charges resolved by the EEOC has declined. More than 100,000 charges were resolved in FY 1997 and FY 1998, but in FY 2006, fewer than 75,000 were resolved. Barack Obama will fully fund and increase staffing for the EEOC and the OFCCP to reduce charge backlogs and to prosecute efforts to remedy systemic discrimination. To assure that the federal government holds itself to a high anti-discrimination standard, Obama will appoint a Chair of the EEOC and nominate commissioners who are committed to enforcing anti-discrimination laws.

### **151) A Law To Prohibit Discrimination by Employers and Health Insurers On the Basis of Genetic Information**

**Supporting the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act:** With medical advances in the field of genetics, getting genetically tested can be of increasing usefulness in diagnosing and treating certain health conditions. In order to take advantage of those advances people need to be assured that their genetic code will not be used against them in a discriminatory way. Barack Obama is a cosponsor of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information by employers and health insurers. The Act also applies health information privacy regulations to the use and disclosure of genetic information.

### **152) Guaranteed Health Coverage For People With Disabilities**

**Guaranteeing Health Care Coverage:** Many people with disabilities do not seek work or leave the workforce because they need the guaranteed health insurance that the federal government's benefit programs provide. As a result, many stay on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which include Medicare or Medicaid coverage, rather than take a job that might jeopardize their health care coverage. Barack Obama has pledged to sign universal health care legislation by the end of his first term in office that will assure that Americans with disabilities will have quality, affordable, portable coverage that will allow them to take a job without fear of losing coverage. People with disabilities who lose their Medicare or Medicaid eligibility by taking a job, but still cannot afford coverage, will be provided a subsidy in order to purchase coverage. Moreover, under Obama's plan, insurers will not be able to deny coverage on the basis of pre-existing conditions

### **153) Increase Mental Health Coverage for Private Health Insurance and For Veterans**

**Improving Mental Health Care:** Mental illness affects approximately one in five American families. Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are coming home with record levels of combat stress. The National Alliance on Mental Illness estimates that untreated mental illnesses cost the U.S. more than \$100 billion per year. Barack Obama is a supporter of the bipartisan Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007, and, as a state senator, Obama helped pass a mental health parity bill that requires coverage for serious mental illnesses to be provided on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to other illnesses and diseases. As president, Obama will support mental health parity so that coverage for serious mental illnesses is provided on the same terms and conditions as other illnesses and diseases. For veterans, Obama will improve mental health care at every stage of military service—recruitment, deployment, and reentry into civilian life.

### **154) Hire An Additional 100,000 Federal Employees With Disabilities**

**Increasing Executive Branch Hiring of Workers with Disabilities:** Barack Obama believes the federal government should serve as a model for other employers in hiring and accommodating employees with disabilities. The federal government is the United States' largest employer. Obama believes the federal government must recruit, hire, retain and advance workers with disabilities. To achieve this end, Obama will reinstate Executive Order No. 13173 which President Clinton issued just before he left office. Executive Order No. 13173 failed to achieve its mandate of hiring an additional 100,000 federal employees with disabilities within five years. Obama will issue this executive order early in his first term and designate a senior White House official to assure that all federal departments and agencies meet the mandate. That official will also be responsible for integrating disability policy into major presidential initiatives. Obama will also ensure that all electronic and information technologies employed by the federal government are fully accessible to federal employees and

members of the general public with disabilities, as required by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. In that spirit, Obama has taken steps to make his campaign website consistent with Section 508 standards

**155) Programs To Help Employers Hire People With Disabilities  
Providing Private-Sector Employers with Resources to Accommodate Employees with Disabilities:**

Several large employers, such as Walgreens, CVS, and Marriott, have led the way by establishing systems for recruiting, hiring, accommodating, retaining and promoting employees with disabilities. As president, Barack Obama will direct his Secretary of Labor, the Labor Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy, and its Job Accommodation Network to bring together employers, employer associations, human resources professionals, disability advocates, service providers, and the labor movement to identify, promote, and disseminate best practices in accommodating workers with disabilities.

**156) Help Employers Take Advantage of Tax Benefits For Hiring People With Disabilities  
Encouraging Private-Sector Employers to Use Existing Tax Benefits to Hire More Workers with Disabilities:** The tax code already contains several provisions designed to encourage employers to hire employees with disabilities, including the Disabled Access Tax Credit, a Tax Deduction for Architectural and Transportation Barrier Removal, and the Work Opportunity Tax Credit. Yet, very few employers actually take advantage of these credits. Barack Obama will launch an aggressive effort to educate employers about these tax benefits so that more employers use them to hire greater numbers of employees with disabilities.

**157) Business Owned By People With Disabilities Will Be Given Preferences In Government Contacts**

**Supporting Small Businesses Owned by People with Disabilities:** Despite the challenges that individuals with disabilities face in starting their own businesses, they are not currently considered "disadvantaged" for purposes of federal contracting provisions that seek to aid disadvantaged business owners. Barack Obama would direct the Small Business Administration to amend regulations under the Small Business Act that provide preferences in federal contracting to small businesses owned by members of socially and economically disadvantaged groups to include individuals with disabilities.

**158) Employer Mandate of 7 Paid Six Day Per Year (Only 50% of Private Sector Now Offers Paid Sick Leave)**

**Mandate A Reasonable Amount of Paid Sick Leave:** Half of all private-sector workers have no paid sick days. The problem is worse for employees in low-paying jobs where less than a quarter receive any paid sick days. But sick days can be critical for workers with disabilities. For example, employees with cancer may need to attend chemotherapy sessions or seek other intermittent treatments for their physical or mental impairments. Barack Obama will require that employers provide seven paid sick days per year – which may be taken on an hourly basis – so that Americans with disabilities can take the time off they need without fear of losing their jobs or a paycheck.

**159) Protection For Caregivers Against Workforce Discrimination Thru the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**

**Protect Against Caregiver Discrimination:** Workers with family obligations often are discriminated against in the workplace. This is a growing problem, as evidenced by the skyrocketing number of discrimination suits being filed: there has been a 400 percent increase in the number of family responsibility discrimination lawsuits in the last decade. Obama will prevent family members from

being discriminated against because of caregiving responsibilities. Barack Obama will commit the government to enforcing recently-enacted Equal Employment Opportunity Commission guidelines on caregiver discrimination.

**160) Increase The Number of Community Care Opportunities For People With Disabilities and Extend Minimum Wage and Overtime Protection to Direct Care Attendants**

**Supporting the Community Choice Act and Direct Care Workers:** Barack Obama supports Senator Tom Harkin's (D-IA) Community Choice Act of 2007, which would allow Americans with significant disabilities the choice of living in their community rather than having to live in a nursing home or other institution. The legislation would expand community direct care services, with the goal of ensuring high-quality care for Americans with disabilities. The current shortage of community direct care attendants is related to shortages in other sectors of the economy – low pay, limited or no benefits and inflexible working hours. Obama supports the Fair Home Health Care Act, which would extend minimum wage and overtime protections to direct care attendants, and why he also supports raising the minimum wage and providing these workers – along with all other Americans – access to high-quality, affordable health insurance. He also believes that we should strengthen ties between community direct care settings and federal, state and local job training programs to ensure that individuals receive information about job openings.

**161) A \$30/mo National Insurance Program For Seniors To Pay For Modifications and Services To Remain In Their Home**

**Supporting the CLASS Act:** Currently 10 million Americans require long-term care, and that number is expected to increase to 15 million by 2020. These Americans are often forced to give up their homes or communities in order to receive the care they need. Barack Obama strongly supports the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act to create a voluntary, budget-neutral national insurance program to help adults who have or develop functional disabilities to remain independent and in their communities. Employees would have the option of enrolling through monthly \$30 payroll deductions. Individuals over 18 who had contributed premiums for five or more years would then be eligible for benefits if they are unable to perform two or more activities of daily living (e.g., eating, bathing, dressing). Those benefits could be used for housing modifications, assistive technologies, personal assistance services, transportation or other supports to increase the ability of those with disabilities to find and keep jobs, and remain in their homes and communities.

**162) All State Provide At Least One Voting Machine Accessible To Those With Disabilities (Now Over 1/3<sup>rd</sup> Of States Do Not)**

**Protect Voting Rights:** Americans with disabilities have the same right to cast their vote as every other American. That means that all polling places need to be physically accessible and all voting equipment must allow Americans with disabilities to vote with the same privacy and independence as other voters. Yet as of last year, over one third of states still had not provided at least one machine that would allow voters with disabilities to cast a ballot privately and independently. Barack Obama believes this is unacceptable. He supports fully funding the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) so that we can ensure all polling places are accessible. His administration would also assure better enforcement of federal disability rights laws – from HAVA to the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act to the ADA – to make sure the right of Americans with disabilities to vote is fully protected. In addition, Obama forcefully opposes voter ID laws that require mandatory photo identification at polling places, which would have the effect of disproportionately disenfranchising Americans with disabilities, more than 3 million of whom lack a government-issued form of identification. Obama believes voter ID requirements are unconstitutional. Obama led Senate opposition to national photo ID requirements and joined an amicus brief filed with the Supreme Court

arguing that Indiana's voter ID law violates the 24th Amendment, which prohibits any form of poll tax. In an Obama Administration, the voting rights of people with disabilities and all Americans will be protected with the full force of the law.

### **163) Amend Medicare Rule So People With Disabilities Can Leave Their Home And Not Lose Benefits**

**Amending the Medicare “Homebound” Rule:** Barack Obama supports amending the Medicare “homebound” rule so that those with disabilities have the freedom to leave their homes without fear of having their government benefits taken away. Obama believes that our Medicare policy must reflect the common sense notion that community engagement and support is a vital component of a meaningful life. He looks forward to amending the law to remove arbitrary measures of “acceptable” time away from home and further ensure that individuals do not have benefits removed unfairly.

### **164) A Law That Fosters Using Monitoring and Communications Technology To Overcome Barriers For People With Disabilities**

**Investing in Assistive Technologies:** Barack Obama believes we must use technology to make community based living a reality for more people with disabilities. Obama supports the Fostering Independence Through Technology Act, which offers 21st century solutions, such as home monitoring and communications technologies, to overcoming barriers for people with disabilities. In addition, amending the Medicare “Homebound” rule will assure that homebound people with disabilities are not denied certain vital assistive living technologies just because they might occasionally be used outside the home.

### **165) \$1 Billion for Autism Spectrum Disorder Research and \$350 Million for Treatment and Care**

**Supporting Americans Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders:** More than one million Americans live with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), a complex neurobiological condition that has a range of impacts on thinking, feeling, language, and the ability to relate to others. As diagnostic criteria broaden and awareness increases, more cases of ASD have been recognized across the country. Barack Obama believes we need to research treatments and search for the causes of ASD. He has been a strong supporter of more than \$1 billion in federal funding for ASD research on the root causes and treatments. Obama believes we must work to guarantee that Americans with ASD can live independent and fully productive lives and to assure that their families understand and are able to support a loved one with ASD. Obama will fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to ensure that no child with ASD or any other disability is left behind. Obama will also fight to assure that the government and our communities work together to provide a helping hand to people with ASD and their families. Obama has a long record supporting people with ASD. In the state senate, Obama sponsored legislation that became law to create the ASD Program - a systems development initiative designed to promote the implementation of evidence-based practices. And in the U.S. Senate, Obama is also a cosponsor of a measure that would expand federal funding for life-long services for people with ASD, authorizing approximately \$350 million in new federal funding for key programs related to treatments, interventions and services for both children and adults with ASD.

### **166) Cut Global Poverty In Half by 2015 and Double Foreign Assistance To \$50 Billion**

**Fight Global Poverty:** Obama will embrace the Millennium Development Goal of cutting extreme poverty around the world in half by 2015, and he will double our foreign assistance to \$50 billion to achieve that goal. He will help the world's weakest states to build healthy and educated communities, reduce poverty, develop markets, and generate wealth.

## Poverty

### **167) \$1 Billion For 5 Years To Train For Transitional Jobs and Career Programs**

**Help Americans Grab a Hold of and Climb the Job Ladder:** Obama will invest \$1 billion over five years in transitional jobs and career pathway programs that implement proven methods of helping low-income Americans succeed in the workforce. Transitional jobs are a promising way to help chronically unemployed people break into the workplace. This approach places participants into temporary, subsidized wage-paying jobs. It also offers mentoring and social services designed to address the work-blocking problems like personal and family conflicts. Once they find entry-level work, low-income workers often are unable to break into middle-class jobs. Bridge programs can help by partnering the federal government with employers and community-based organizations to identify job opportunities, develop customized training programs, and place low-income employees in better jobs. Barack Obama introduced legislation to devote \$50 million for transitional and bridge employment programs for hard-to-employ groups like homeless veterans, children aging out of foster care, and people returning to communities

### **168) Help Get People To Work**

**Improve Transportation Access to Jobs:** As president, Obama will work to ensure that low-income Americans have transportation access to jobs. Obama will double the federal Jobs Access and Reverse Commute program to ensure that additional federal public transportation dollars flow to the highest-need communities and that urban planning initiatives take this aspect of transportation policy into account.

### **169) Create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund for Mixed-Income Neighborhoods**

**Create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund:** Obama will create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund to develop affordable housing in mixed-income neighborhoods.

### **170) Fully Fund the Community Development Block Grant**

**Fully Fund the Community Development Block Grant:** Obama will fully fund the Community Development Block Grant program and engage with urban leaders across the country to increase resources to the highest-need Americans.

### **171) Establish 20 Full Service Neighborhoods In High Poverty Areas**

**Establish 20 Promise Neighborhoods:** Obama will create 20 Promise Neighborhoods in areas that have high levels of poverty and crime and low levels of student academic achievement in cities across the nation. The Promise Neighborhoods will be modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone, which provides a full network of services, including early childhood education, youth violence prevention efforts and after-school activities, to an entire neighborhood from birth to college.

### **172) Increase Funding In Community Development Institution Fund, Small Business**

## **Administration and Other Agencies To Help Economic Development In Low Income Areas**

**Ensure Community-Based Investment Resources in Every Urban Community:** Obama will work with community and business leaders to identify and address the unique economic development barriers of every major metropolitan area. Obama will provide additional resources to the federal Community Development Financial Institution Fund, the Small Business Administration and other federal agencies, especially to their local branch offices, to address community needs.

### **173) More Funding For Small Business and Internet Access In Rural Areas**

**Invest in Rural Areas:** Obama will invest in rural small businesses and fight to expand high-speed Internet access. He will improve rural schools and attract more doctors to rural areas.

## **SERVICE**

### **174) Expand Americorps from 75,000 to 250,000 to Include Classroom Corps, Health Corps, and Clean Energy Corps**

**Expand Corporation for National and Community Service:** Obama will expand AmeriCorps from 75,000 slots today to 250,000 and he will focus this expansion on addressing the great challenges facing the nation. He will establish a Classroom Corps to help teachers and students, with a priority placed on underserved schools; a Health Corps to improve public health outreach; a Clean Energy Corps to conduct weatherization and renewable energy projects; a Veterans Corps to assist veterans at hospitals, nursing homes and homeless shelters; and a Homeland Security Corps to help communities plan, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

### **175) Expand Volunteer Opportunities For People 55+**

**Engage Retiring Americans in Service on a Large Scale:** Older Americans have a wide range of skills and knowledge to contribute. Obama will expand and improve programs that connect individuals over the age of 55 to quality volunteer opportunities.

### **176) Double The Size Of Peace Corps To 16,000 by 2011**

**Expand the Peace Corps:** Obama will double the Peace Corps to 16,000 by 2011. He will work with the leaders of other countries to build an international network of overseas volunteers so that Americans work side-by-side with volunteers from other countries.

### **177) Establish Best Face America To Send Fluent Speakers In Local Languages Overseas as well as Teachers, Engineers and Doctors to Serve Overseas**

**Show the World the Best Face of America:** Obama will set up an America's Voice Initiative to send Americans who are fluent speakers of local languages to expand our public diplomacy. He also will extend opportunities for older individuals such as teachers, engineers, and doctors to serve overseas

### **178) Require 50 Hours Community Service For All Middle and High School Students**

**Expand Service-Learning in Our Nation's Schools:** Obama will set a goal that all middle and high school students do 50 hours of community service a year. He will develop national guidelines for service-learning and will give schools better tools both to develop programs and to document student experience. Green Job Corps: Obama will create an energy-focused youth jobs program to provide disadvantaged youth with service opportunities weatherizing buildings and getting practical experience in fast-growing career fields.

### **179) Increase Youth Build For 50,000 Low-Income Youth a Year To Learn Construction Skills and Complete High School**

**Expand YouthBuild Program:** Obama will expand the YouthBuild program, which gives

disadvantaged young people the chance to complete their high school education, learn valuable skills and build affordable housing in their communities. He will grow the program so that 50,000 low-income young people a year a chance to learn construction job skills and complete high school.

**180) American Opportunity Tax Credit of \$4,000 for 100 Hours of Public Service**

**Require 100 Hours of Service in College:** Obama will establish a new American Opportunity Tax Credit that is worth \$4,000 a year in exchange for 100 hours of public service a year.

**181) 25% of College Work Study Jobs Be Used For Public Service Opportunities Instead of Jobs in Dining Hall and Libraries**

**Promote College Serve-Study:** Obama will ensure that at least 25 percent of College Work-Study funds are used to support public service opportunities instead of jobs in dining halls and libraries.

**182) Social Investment Network To Use Federal Seed Money For Local Innovation In Non-Profit Activities**

**Social Investment Fund Network:** Obama will create a Social Investment Fund Network to use federal seed money to leverage private sector funding to improve local innovation, test the impact of new ideas and expand successful programs to scale.

**183) New Agency Within Corp for National and Community Service To Improve The Effectiveness Of Non-Profits**

**Social Entrepreneurship Agency for Nonprofits:** Barack Obama will create an agency within the Corporation for National and Community Service dedicated to building the capacity and effectiveness of the nonprofit sector.

## **URBAN POLICY**

**184) Create A White House Office of Urban Policy To Ensure That Federal Urban Dollars Are Effectively Spent On Highest-Impact Programs**

**Create a White House Office on Urban Policy:** Obama will create a White House Office of Urban Policy to develop a strategy for metropolitan America and to ensure that all federal dollars targeted to urban areas are effectively spent on the highest-impact programs. The Director of Urban Policy will report directly to the president and coordinate all federal urban programs.

**185) Double Funding For Basic Research, Expand Broadband Technology and Made R&D Tax Credit Permanent**

**Support Job Creation:** The federal government has a role to play to ensure that every American is able to work at his or her highest capacity. Barack Obama will double federal funding for basic research, expand the deployment of broadband technology and make the research and development tax credit permanent so that businesses can invest in innovation and create high-paying, secure jobs.

**186) Lower People's Interest Payments by Creating a New Mortgage Interest Tax Credit:** Many middle class Americans do not receive the existing mortgage interest tax deduction because they do not itemize their taxes. Obama will ensure that middle-class Americans get the financial assistance they need to purchase or keep their own home by creating a 10 percent universal mortgage credit that gives tax relief to 10 million Americans who have a home mortgage.

**187) \$10 Billion In Mortgage Revenue Bond Authority To Refinance Sub-Prime Loans and Mortgages For First Time Home Buyers**

**Provide an Additional \$10 Billion of Mortgage Revenue Bond Authority:** Mortgage Revenue Bonds (MRBs) are used to refinance subprime loans and provide mortgages for first time homebuyers. Barack Obama will provide \$10 billion in additional MRBs. According to the National Association of Home Builders, every new mortgage revenue bond home loan produces almost two full-time jobs, \$75,000 in additional wages and salaries and \$41,000 in new federal, state and local revenues.

**188) Create An Affordable Housing Trust Fund With Small Percentage of Profits Form Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to Develop Housing In Mix-Income Neighborhoods**

**Increase the Supply of Affordable Housing throughout Metropolitan Regions:** Communities prosper when all families have access to affordable housing. Barack Obama will create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund to develop affordable housing in mixed-income neighborhoods. The Affordable Housing Trust Fund would use a small percentage of the profits of two government-sponsored housing agencies, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, to create thousands of new units of affordable housing every year. Barack Obama will also restore cuts to public housing operating subsidies, and ensure that all Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs are restored to their original purpose.

**189) Require Polluters To Pay For The Cleanup Of Contaminated Superfund Sites**

**Control Superfund Sites and Data:** As president, Obama will restore the strength of the Superfund program by requiring polluters to pay for the cleanup of contaminated sites they created

**190) Healthy Places Act Will Help Local Government Access Health Impact Of New Projects Like Highways and Shopping Centers**

**Foster Healthy Communities:** How a community is designed – including the layout of its roads, buildings and parks – has a huge impact on the health of its residents. For instance, nearly one-third of Americans live in neighborhoods without sidewalks and less than half of our country's children have a playground within walking distance of their homes. Barack Obama introduced the Healthy Places Act to help local governments assess the health impact of new policies and projects, like highways or shopping centers.

**191) Competitive Grants To Middle Schools That Will Reduce The High School Drop Out Rate**

**Reduce the High School Dropout Rate:** The warning signs for high school drop-outs often occur well before high school. Obama will sign into law his "Success in the Middle Act" to improve the education of middle school students in low-performing schools. Obama will also establish a competitive grant process for entities pursuing evidence-based models that have been proven to reduce dropouts.

**192) Programs To Encourage Young People To Enter Law Enforcement Profession**

**Support Local Law Enforcement:** Barack Obama is committed to fully funding the COPS program to combat crime and help address police brutality and accountability issues in local communities. Obama also supports efforts to encourage young people to enter the law enforcement profession, so that our local police departments are not understaffed because of a dearth of qualified applicants.

**193) Programs To End Cycle Of Youth Violence Like “Cease Fire” in Chicago, Double Funding In Afterschool Programs, and Invest in 20 Promise Neighborhoods To Provide Meaningful**

## **Opportunities for Youth**

**End the Dangerous Cycle of Youth Violence:** As president, Barack Obama will support innovative local programs, such as the CeaseFire program in Chicago, that have been proven to work. Such programs implement a comprehensive public health approach that implements a community-based strategy to prevent youth violence. He will also double funding for federal afterschool programs and invest in 20 Promise Neighborhoods across the country to ensure that urban youth have meaningful opportunities to succeed.

### **194) Address Gun Violence In Cities Repeal of the Tiahrt Amendment Giving Local Law Enforcement Access To Gun Trace Information, Closing Gun Show Loophole and Making Guns Childproof**

**Address Gun Violence in Cities:** As president, Barack Obama would repeal the Tiahrt Amendment, which restricts the ability of local law enforcement to access important gun trace information, and give police officers across the nation the tools they need to solve gun crimes and fight the illegal arms trade. Obama also favors commonsense measures that respect the Second Amendment rights of gun owners, while keeping guns away from children and from criminals who shouldn't have them. He supports closing the gun show loophole and making guns in this country childproof. He also supports making the expired federal Assault Weapons Ban permanent, as such weapons belong on foreign battlefields and not on our streets.

### **195) He Cosponsored Legislation To Ban Racial Profiling.**

**End Racial Profiling:** Barack Obama cosponsored federal legislation to ban racial profiling and require federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to take steps to eliminate the practice. He introduced and passed a law in the Illinois State Senate requiring the Illinois Department of Transportation to record the race, age, and gender of all drivers stopped for traffic violations so that bias could be detected and addressed.

### **196) Allocate Homeland Security Funds Based On Risk and Not General Revenue Sharing**

**Allocate Funds Based on Risk:** Barack Obama believes that the president and Congress should direct our precious homeland security dollars according to risk, not as a form of general revenue sharing. To address this pressing issue, Obama introduced an amendment, supported by the Families of 9/11 and former 9/11 Commissioners Lee Hamilton and Tim Roemer, to increase risk-based funding in the 9/11 bill.

### **197) Insure that All Localities Have An Integrated Emergency Response Plan To Handle An Disasters Like Hurricane Katrina**

**Prepare Effective Emergency Response Plans:** As our nation witnessed in the Hurricane Katrina crisis and its aftermath, too many localities do not have integrated emergency response plans to handle disasters. As president, Obama will further improve coordination between all levels of government, create better evacuation plan guidelines, ensure prompt federal assistance to emergency zones, and increase medical surge capacity.

## **WOMEN**

### **198) Co-Sponsor of Stem Cell Research Act of 2007 Which Would Allow Research of Human Embryonic Stem Cells Derived From Embryos Donated Form In Vitro Fertilization Clinics Supporting Stem Cell Research:**

Barack Obama believes that we owe it to the American public to explore the potential of stem cells to treat the millions of people suffering from debilitating and life-threatening diseases. Obama is a co-sponsor of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007, which would allow research of human embryonic stem cells derived from embryos donated (with consent) from in vitro fertilization clinics. These embryos must be deemed in excess and created based solely for the purpose of fertility treatment.

**199) Introduced The Prevention First Act To Increase Funding For Family Planning and Comprehensive Sex Education That Teaches Both Abstinence and Safe Sex methods Preventing Unwanted Pregnancy:**

Barack Obama is an original co-sponsor of legislation to expand access to contraception, health information and preventive services to help reduce unintended pregnancies. Introduced in January 2007, the Prevention First Act will increase funding for family planning and comprehensive sex education that teaches both abstinence and safe sex methods. The Act will also end insurance discrimination against contraception, improve awareness about emergency contraception, and provide compassionate assistance to rape victims.

**200) Increase Child Support Collection By \$4.9 Billion Over 10 Years**

**Improving Child Support Collection:**

Less than half of parents collecting child support receive the full payments they are due. More than \$11 billion in child support goes unpaid every year. Barack Obama introduced legislation to increase child support enforcement by an additional \$4.9 billion over 10 years, a measure that will collect nearly \$20 billion in payments from men who don't fulfill their parental responsibilities. The bill also makes sure that states pass through 100 percent of collected child support payments to families.

**201) Grants To 20 School Districts Across The Country To Develop Innovative Plans In Consultation with Their Teacher Unions**

Barack Obama introduced a plan to support school districts that try new methods to improve student achievement and reward effective teachers and school leaders. Under his initiative, 20 districts across the country will get grants to develop innovative plans in consultation with their teacher unions. High-performing teachers, and those who take on new responsibilities such as mentoring new teachers, will be eligible for pay increases beyond their base salary. Effective school leadership and effective teaching can improve both the work environment for teachers and learning environment for students. These innovation districts will show results that can be replicated in other school districts.

**Transportation**

**202) Commit Funding for Public Transportation**

**Invest in Public Transportation:** Public transit not only reduces the amount of time individuals spend commuting, but also has significant benefits to air quality, public health and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Barack Obama will re-commit federal resources to public mass transportation projects across the country. Obama will work with state and local governments across the country on efforts to create new, effective public transportation systems and modernize our aging urban public transit infrastructure.

**203) Create Incentives to Use Public Transportation**

**Create Greater Incentives for Public Transit Usage:** The federal tax code rewards driving to work by allowing employers to provide parking benefits of \$205 per month tax free to their employees. The tax code provides employers with commuting benefits for transit, carpooling or vanpooling capped at \$105 per month. This gives drivers a nearly 2:1 advantage over transit users. Obama will reform the tax code to make benefits for driving and public transit or ridesharing equal.

#### **204) Support Stronger Rail and Transit Security Programs**

**Safeguard Mass Public Transportation:** Every weekday, Americans take 34 million trips on public transportation systems to get to work, school and beyond. Even though recent attacks have happened on public transit in Madrid, Mumbai and London, the Bush administration has invested only a small fraction of the \$6 billion that transportation officials have said is necessary to implement needed security improvements. Barack Obama believes that this critical hole in our homeland security network must be addressed. He will fight for greater information-sharing between national intelligence agents and local officials and provide local law enforcement agencies with the everyday tools they need to protect their transportation systems. As a U.S. Senator representing Chicago, Illinois, one of the nation's major rail transportation hubs, Obama has consistently advocated stronger rail and transit security programs.

#### **205) Strengthen Core Transit Infrastructure**

**Strengthen Core Infrastructure:** As our society becomes more mobile and interconnected, the need for 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation networks has never been greater. However, too many of our nation's railways, highways, bridges, airports, and neighborhood streets are slowly decaying due to lack of investment and strategic long term planning. Barack Obama believes that America's long-term competitiveness depends on the stability of our critical infrastructure. As president, Obama will make strengthening our transportation systems, including our roads and bridges, a top priority.

#### **206) Create New Jobs through Rebuilding National Transportation Infrastructure**

**New Jobs through a New National Infrastructure Investment:** Barack Obama believes that it is critically important for the United States to rebuild its national transportation infrastructure – its highways, bridges, roads, ports, air, and train systems – to strengthen user safety, bolster our long-term competitiveness and ensure our economy continues to grow. Investing in national infrastructure is especially important in our efforts to bolster our homeland security to meet international terrorism and natural disaster threats. Additionally, a robust federal infrastructure investment program today will help strengthen the U.S. economy and provide at least one million more U.S. jobs at a time when the housing and construction industries are slowing. Barack Obama will address the infrastructure challenge by creating a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank to expand and enhance, not supplant, existing federal transportation investments. This independent entity will be directed to invest in our nation's most challenging transportation infrastructure needs. The Bank will receive an infusion of federal money, \$60 billion over 10 years, to provide financing to transportation infrastructure projects across the nation. These projects will create up to two million new direct and indirect jobs per year and stimulate approximately \$35 billion per year in new economic activity.

#### **207) Improve and Modernize Air Traffic Control**

**Improve and Modernize Air Traffic Control:** Because of an outdated air-traffic control system and over scheduling at airports already operating at full capacity, there were a record number of flight delays during the first half of 2007. Moreover, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has failed to work well with our nation's air traffic controllers, neglecting to treat them with the respect they deserve. There are nearly 1,100 fewer air traffic controllers working in U.S. air traffic facilities today than three years ago, despite increasing air traffic. Obama will work with Congress to modernize the na-

tion's air traffic control system and he will direct the new FAA Administrator to work cooperatively with the frontline air traffic controllers to restore morale and improve working conditions and operations at the agency.

### **208) Strengthen Airline Safety and Regulations**

**Strengthen Airline Safety and Regulations:** Over the past several months there have been reports that FAA leadership ignored warnings from FAA employees that too many commercial planes failed to meet federal safety guidelines. As a result of FAA whistleblowers coming to the public with this information, there have been widespread groundings of commercial planes which have added considerable strain to our airline industry. Barack Obama believes that we must restore competence, independence and credibility to the FAA. As president, Obama will appoint a qualified FAA Administrator who will not play politics with the safety of American travelers and he will work with Congress to strengthen the FAA's mandate.

### **209) Support Funding for Amtrak**

**Support Amtrak Funding:** Barack Obama has been a strong supporter of federal financial support for Amtrak. Obama believes we need to reform Amtrak to improve accountability. In many parts of the country, Amtrak is the only form of reliable transportation. In the U.S. Senate, Obama is a cosponsor of the Passenger Rail Investment and Innovation Act of 2007, a leading act to provide long-term federal investment to Amtrak. As president, Barack Obama will continue to fight for Amtrak funding and reform so that individuals, families and businesses throughout the country have safe and reliable transportation options.

### **210) Support Development of High-Speed Freight and Passenger Rail Nationwide**

**Support Development of High-Speed Freight and Passenger Rail:** Barack Obama supports development of high-speed rail networks across the country. Providing passengers with safe high-speed rail will have significant environmental and metropolitan planning advantages and help diversify our nation's transportation infrastructure. Our domestic rail freight capacity must also be strengthened because our demand for rail transportation has never been greater, leaving many key transportation hubs stretched to capacity. Obama is committed to renewing the federal government's commitment to high speed rail so that our nation's transportation infrastructure continues to support, and not hinder, our nation's long-term economic growth.

### **211) Provide Air Transportation in Rural Areas**

**Strengthen Air Transportation in Underserved Areas:** Obama has worked across party lines to protect funding for the Essential Air Service program, which provides vital funds for air transportation in rural areas. Obama supports the continuation of the Small Community Air Service Development Program that helps small and mid-sized communities attract new air service, which is critical to local economic development. Obama will work to improve the effectiveness of these programs and increase the availability of rail transportation options for residents of rural communities.

### **212) Increase Efforts of Homeland Security Through Better Airport Security**

**Bolster Airport Security:** Between October 2005 and January 2006, Government Accountability Office investigators were able to smuggle bomb components past federal screeners at all 21 airports they targeted. And airline passengers are still not screened against a comprehensive, accurate terrorist watch list. As a result, almost six years after 9/11, we still have a security system that results in eight-year olds and grandmothers being repeatedly questioned and even stopped from flying. Developing a comprehensive, accurate list must be a priority and used in a way that safeguards passengers' privacy while ensuring the safety of air travel. As a member of the Senate Homeland Security and Government Af-

fairs Committee, Barack Obama believes we must redouble our efforts to determine if the measures implemented after 9/11 are adequately addressing the threats our nation continues to face from airplane-based terrorism. Obama has supported increased numbers of federal airport screeners and improved funding for aviation security.