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“SCHIP... Pig In A Poke”

by
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It's easy to tell that Presidential Primaries are just months away... Democratic “mumblers, grumblers and professional propaganda protestors” are fast at work creating vacuous myths and tales concerning the current administration's hatred of little children and racist attitudes toward illegal immigrants. Any lie or mis-information that will negatively stir the souls of American voters leading to a Democrat win a year from now is acceptable. Trying to cover their failure to follow through on pre-election promises to “pass monumental legislation” mandating the end of the Iraqi war, bringing our troops home immediately, and making our country safer from terrorism, the House and Senate Democrats, who now hold a majority in Congress, can only rant and rave about how poor President Bush's record is ad nauseum.

Much to the Democrat's chagrin, the American public is apparently not buying the slop the Dems are throwing into the trough to be gobbled up by we free thinking voters who refuse to buy into their failed and vitriolic rhetoric. Grabbing at political straws they claim that the American public is behind their agenda, obviously choosing to ignore the latest polls that indicate that only 25% of American voters believe Congress knows what it is doing... that's 10% below the numbers approving President Bush's actions.

As per usual, using their innate ability to take any disaster and shift the blame to the President's shoulders, the Democrats are having a field day with the tragic fires in California. Barbara Boxer, the ever vocal Democrat Senator from California, has even claimed President Bush is responsible for the devastation out there, conveniently lamenting, albeit incorrectly, that the “fires could not be properly fought because President Bush had so many of our National Guardsman in Iraq fighting that "illegal, immoral, unjust war.”

Of course they cannot pass up any opportunity to compare the tragedy in California to Katrina's devastation of New Orleans, and California's Democrat Lt. Governor John Garamendi couldn't wait to participate in the blame game, calling President Bush's planned visit to the front lines of the fire a “public relations” stunt. “I've got some doubt about the value of President Bush coming out here,” Garamendi told MSNBC's “Hardball.” “I just hope ... he brings more than he brought to New Orleans.” Of course if the President hadn't shown up he would have been burned in effigy for ignoring the state's plight.

The people in California, however, are better mentally prepared and more capable of handling disasters than the inept and corrupt government officials of Louisiana and New Orleans.

When those in California were asked about the comparison they responded with the news that “there’s plenty of food, water, clothing and shelter to be had and the government’s response has been great.”

Aside from the California fires, the mantra that Democrats will be chanting between now and election time will be “President Bush’s failure to cover the poor children of America with needed health coverage.” To set the record straight I would like to include in this article a breakdown of the Myths being spread indiscriminately by the Democrats, and the Facts that shoot down those Myths. These Facts were provided in part by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) compiled by the Baltimore Sun.

MYTH: The Democrat’s latest SCHIP bill serves low-income children first.

FACT: Rather than requiring that poor children be served first before the program can be expanded beyond 200 percent of the federal poverty level, the Democrat’s bill expands the program to cover those at 300 percent of the poverty level. The bill also contains an “income disregard loophole,” which allows states to define “family income” as they see fit and intentionally ignore tens of thousands of dollars worth of income for purposes of SCHIP eligibility. This loophole could permit a family earning more than 300 percent of the poverty level to receive benefits. In fact, under the bill, a family of five in New Jersey making \$84,455 per year would still be eligible for SCHIP.

MYTH: The Democrat’s latest SCHIP bill serves children only – not adults.

FACT: Though the legislation phases childless adults out of the program within one year, parents are still eligible permanently. Even the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) says 10 percent of SCHIP enrollees will be adults in FY 2012. With 700,000 adults currently enrolled in SCHIP – even though a half million eligible children are not currently enrolled in the program – the fact that the Majority’s bill explicitly allows SCHIP to continue ensuring adults is irresponsible.

MYTH: The Democrat’s latest SCHIP bill does not force children out of private health insurance.

FACT: Virtually identical to the legislation vetoed by President Bush, CBO estimates that the Democrat’s latest bill continues to force two million children who already have private insurance onto government-run SCHIP.

MYTH: The Democrat’s latest SCHIP bill only covers low-income American children, not illegal immigrants.

FACT: The legislation weakens Medicaid citizenship verification standards included in the Deficit Reduction Act by adding Social Security Numbers – a method even the Social Security Administration admits does not prove citizenship eligibility. It also includes an “Express Lane” program that removes inadequate citizenship verification safeguards in an effort to sign people up faster, no matter their legal status.

MYTH: The Democrat’s latest SCHIP bill focuses solely on the SCHIP program.

FACT: The Democrat’s original SCHIP bill included district-specific earmarks and pork projects, and guess what? The latest version does as well. The earmarks haven’t been removed.

MYTH: The Democrat's latest SCHIP bill insures the same amount of low-income children as their original SCHIP bill, while spending the same amount of money.

FACT: According to CBO, the new legislation (H.R. 3963) actually covers 400,000 less children than in the Democrat's original bill (H.R. 976). Amazingly, the number of insured children drops under the new bill even though the cost of the bill has increased – by a half billion dollars, according to CBO (\$35.4 billion for H.R. 3963 vs. \$34.9 billion for H.R. 976 from FY 2008-2012).

Those who try to tell you that President Bush hates kids and could care less if they get health coverage are lying. What he's trying to do is to keep you, the taxpayer, from paying for children and parents of children who can afford their own health coverage. We should be glad President Bush is standing tall and trying to take care of the children who deserve it and disallowing all others. The Democrats, per usual, are trying to sell you a very expensive pig in a poke.

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