



**August 2011 Congressional Town Halls:
Tough Questions to Hold Your Representative Accountable**

Debt Deal (all Senators and Delegates)

The recent deal you voted for to raise the debt ceiling calls for \$1 trillion in spending cuts that make the middle-class sacrifice while millionaires and billionaires are not asked to sacrifice at all. A major reason for the deficit is because the wealthy and corporations have been asked to contribute less.

How can we spur job creation and ensure that the middle class is not forced to bear the brunt of deficit reduction?

The recent deal you voted for to raise the debt ceiling calls for \$1 trillion in spending cuts. These cuts will mean fewer jobs will flow down to the local and state level, which in turn means more jobs lost. **Congress was elected to create jobs, not to cause further job loss. Aren't we going in exactly the wrong direction?**

Jobs (all three House members)

Many employers are discriminating against the jobless by prohibiting them from applying for open positions. For the 14 million workers across the country who have been affected by the jobs crisis, this discrimination is outrageous, especially when they just want to work to feed their families and stay in their homes. Recently, a bill has been introduced in the House by Reps. DeLauro and Johnson to remedy this: The Fair Opportunity Employment Act (H.R. 2501). **Can we count on you to cosponsor this important bill?**

Health Care/Medicare/Medicaid

First question all Senators and Representatives

President Obama has called for reigning in Medicare spending in part by lifting the ban that bars the government from using its purchasing power to negotiate the price of prescription drugs with drug companies. The Veterans Administration gets the lowest drug prices in the country because it's allowed to negotiate with drug companies. Why can't Medicare? **Will you support lifting this ban?**

Medicare has provided good health coverage from doctors we choose. Yet you have voted to privatize the program, putting private health insurance companies in charge. And raising the amount we pay by \$6,400 a year. It means we will have to save \$185,000 more to pay medical bills that Medicare used to pay. **Why did you do this? Where are seniors going to find the money to pay for health care?**

The Kaiser Family Foundation recently reported that the Paul Ryan budget you voted for will eliminate as many as 44 million Americans from Medicaid. **Are you proposing that we raise state and local taxes to take care of these people, or are you proposing that they go without health care?**

This Question just for Rep Capito:

The Ryan budget you voted for makes changes to Medicaid that would result in less federal Medicaid money going to states which puts more strain on our state budget or forces our state to cut off the elderly, kids and people with disabilities. **Would you support raising taxes on the rich, closing corporate tax loopholes and ending subsidies for big oil to balance the budget instead of cuts to Medicaid?**

Fair Taxation

Do you think the wealthy and powerful should pay their fair share to help balance the budget, or should we simply let their high-priced lobbyists get them off the hook?

Revenues

For the past decade, the wealthiest people in the country have received numerous tax breaks. At the same time, we have seen cuts to things like education, health care and public parks. Big Oil and Gas are making tens of billions in profits every quarter. **Do you think we should continue taxpayer-funded subsidies for oil and gas companies?**

The government currently spends billions of dollars every year on massive, out-of-date weapons programs that our own defense secretary deems unnecessary. **Do you think we should cut some of these unnecessary weapons programs and put the money back into communities?**