

MISCELLANEOUS TEXT (FEC Form 99)

NAME OF COMMITTEE (In Full)

FEC IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

RYAN 4 PREZ

C00703512

Mailing Address 6241 FREEDOM LANE

City State ZIP Code
CITRUS HEIGHTS CA 95621

September 16, 2022

Federal Election Commission (FEC)
Reports Analysis Division
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463

(Part 6 of 6)

For Americans below the full retirement age, there is no longer any way to voluntarily reduce work output and legally supplement the loss of income with subsistence-level government aid. Without such a mechanism, real wages for laborers have deteriorated to a level where less than 40% of Americans could afford a \$1,000 emergency expense (CNN Business, 2021). Furthermore, without a functional Price Support for Labor, American workers will continue to experience tremendous uncertainty and distress, as future technological advancements further reduce the need (and consequently the real compensation) for their labor.

Conclusion

While the GPRA itself contained many sensible provisions, the overall political environment that enacted the GPRA in the early 1990s presents a cautionary tale for the future of American politics. In the race to capture the allegiance of mainstream voters, Democrats shifted their policies toward the middle. In reaction, Republicans shifted their policies even further to the political right. In essence, policy proposals became popularity contests, catering to the desires of wealthier classes of Americans who vote consistently.

As this political shift unfolded, politicians did not expend the necessary effort to figure out how existing policies actually worked. Instead, they took the economic strength of the status quo as a product of their own modern policies, rather than attribute much of the strength to the Price Support for Labor enacted in the Social Security Act of 1935. In erring so, they set the wrong goals, and those wrong goals were magnified by the provisions of the GPRA that sought to optimize planning and resource allocation toward the attainment of those goals, eventually resulting in the destruction of the very mechanisms of the Price Support for Labor that had previously protected the average American from economic instability, and even destitution.

With the onset of the COVID pandemic, as temporary relief measures have been enacted, government aid programs have grown much more responsive to the economic needs of poorer Americans. Still, the U.S. is faced with major decisions as to how the country moves forward economically toward a more sustainable future.

In order to move forward as a country in a positive economic direction, where all classes and races are able to benefit from economic growth, it is absolutely necessary to change direction from the Socialist inclinations of the modern Democratic Party and the obstructionist inclinations of the modern Republican Party. Instead, the current economic situation calls for a new, fairer, more sustainable Price Support for Labor that can correct the imbalances created over the last quarter of a century in which the country has lacked a Price Support for Labor. Rather than spending massive amounts of debt on giving every American the same healthcare and the same child tax credit, the United States must learn from the past and enact Price Support mechanisms to solve the economic problems facing the country. In terms of a Price Support for Labor, it is important to create a new system that no longer disguises programs to suit social views, but that instead uses undisguised programs to pay certain groups of Americans not to work or work less based on a good reason.

Specifically, for a Price Support for Labor to replace AFDC and TANF, this author recommends a program that sets a maximum work output per week of 40 hours per week per enrollee (Ehrenreich, August 31, 2020) and pays enrollees for a maximum of 20 hours per week not worked, where the rate of payment for hours not worked improves over the standard rate when the enrollee works, or verifiably attempts to work, 20 of the 40 hours per week (Ehrenreich, February 18, 2022). Importantly,

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under such a system, there remains an incentive for all enrollees to work part-time in order to stay work-force-relevant and grow their job skills.

Also, for Social Security reform, this author advocates flattening the widely disparate payment tranches and transitioning the program to a formal Price Support structure that pays per potential work hour not worked, up to 40 hours per week (Ehrenreich, August 31, 2020). Additionally, this author advocates creating new aggregate-level earnings tests for both earned and unearned income, applying the rationale that unearned income still requires some level of management or oversight work from the recipient, so that these tests may serve indirectly as means tests for the Social Security retirement pension program.

Additionally, for healthcare, this author advocates replacing Medicare and Medicaid with a system of government-funded, but privately-run healthcare plans that replace the concept of the copay instead with lifetime personal caps on per person government spending, so as to incentivize individual patients to bargain for better prices, resulting in downward price pressure in the healthcare industry (Ehrenreich, August 31, 2020). Also, this author advocates for the possibility of extensions to the lifetime personal cap for certain catastrophically ill groups of patients.

Additionally, in regards to agriculture, this author does not profess to be an expert on that subject, but nevertheless, it seems that the elimination of Acreage Reduction Programs (ARPs) has coincided with a significant decrease in financial stability for family farms. In order to offer a program similar to ARPs to U.S. farmers and still maintain the world food supply, this author suggests the development of new varieties of agricultural commodities (e.g. corn and wheat) that require much less resources (e.g. water and fertilizer) to produce, but also yield a clearly lower quality end product (e.g. product with inferior taste and texture). With such varieties, land that would have been idled via ARPs could instead participate in growing food supplies that are clearly inferior from the viewpoint of markets in developed societies, but could still ably serve the urgent need for nourishment in developing countries.

Finally, this author recognizes that many of the Welfare Fraud convictions that occurred under TANF were due to financial need. Faced with a system that was designed not to pay benefits, that was instead designed to require an amount of work output from recipients that would make them ineligible for benefits based on their sparse income, where that sparse income amount is not enough for a family to live on, it is no surprise that many TANF recipients underreported income so they could maintain some level of benefits from the program. This author recommends reviewing all past Welfare Fraud convictions under TANF and pardoning any such Welfare Fraud felonies where the amount of underreported income was such that it indicated a reasonable financial need.

By reorganizing United States government services toward Price Support systems, all Americans can regain the financial security that comes with both a stable Middle Class, and a government-stabilized Poorer Class. This is the key to uplifting the hopes and dreams of individual Americans and building a better future.

Notes

1) The authors CalWORKS benefits calculation under 2019 rules (using information from https://ca.db101.org/ca/programs/income_support/calworks/program2.htm) for a single-parent family with 3 children indicates that for Region 1 benefits cease around \$1485 in gross income and for Region 2 benefits cease around \$1415 in gross income. Given an employee was paid California 2019 minimum wage of \$12 per hour worked for 30 hours per week for 4 weeks in a month, that employee would earn \$1440 in gross income for the month. Given this analysis, a parent meeting the CalWORKS work

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requirement would be unlikely to receive much, if any, aid.

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~~Pew Research Center, For First Time in Modern Era, Living with Parents Edges Out Other.....~~

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Glossary

* Cost: An amount spent in production of a good or service.

* Cost of Producing: The total of all costs incurred in production of a good or service.

* Demand: The quantity of a good or service desired for purchase at a given price.

* Elastic Demand: Occurs when demand is responsive to changes in price, such that a given change in price produces a noticeable change in quantity demanded.

* Inelastic Demand: Occurs when demand is unresponsive to changes in price, such that a given change in price produces a negligible change in quantity demanded, if any.

* Market Price: The price for a good or service that is determined by the intersection point of the Supply Curve and Demand Curve for that good or service.

* Nominal Price: The price of a good or service stated in currency value at the time the purchase transaction occurs.

* Price: The amount paid for acquisition of a good or service.

* Price Control: A legally mandated restriction on the price of a good or service that either directly sets the price to be paid or sets a minimum price that must not be undercut.

* Price Support: An economic scheme under which a third party (usually a government) purchases either the already produced excess supply or the capacity to produce future excess supply for a good or service for the purpose of stabilizing the Market Price for that good or service above the Cost of Producing that good or service.

* Real Price: The price of a good or service adjusted to reflect the purchasing power paid for that good or service.

* Supply: The quantity of a good or service offered for sale at a given price.

Misperceived Price Supports: How the GPRA led to the downfall of the American Middle-Class

Ryan Stephen Ehrenreich, MBA

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