

## Jobs/Accomplishments



# Senate Republican Conference Jobs Agenda for the 109th Congress:



**Reduce the tax burden on American taxpayers and businesses** - Extend the lower dividend and capital-gain tax rates and the higher small business equipment expensing provisions through 2010, while working to repeal the death tax

**Energy Bill** - Allow American businesses the opportunity to provide reliable and affordable supplies of energy to meet America's growing needs while reducing its dependence on foreign sources of energy

**Highway Bill** - Provide equitable and reliable funding for necessary infrastructure projects

**Free Trade Legislation** - Approve negotiated agreements that bolster the U.S. economy and expand American job opportunities

**Trade Promotion Authority** - Extend President's authority to negotiate additional trade agreements to open world markets for American businesses and consumers

**Asbestos Bill** - Pass asbestos reform that will save American jobs and help injured workers. Target help to those workers injured by asbestos and protect businesses from frivolous lawsuits.

**Class Action Reform** - Reduce junk lawsuits by streamlining legal process to ensure that injured Americans receive compensation

**Welfare Reform Reauthorization** - Build on the success of previous welfare reform by expanding work opportunities and strengthening families

**Workforce Investment Act** - Provide American workers with enhanced opportunities to receive training for new and better jobs

**Workplace Flexibility** - Permit employers to establish voluntary compensatory and flexible time policies to give employees more choices

**Enhanced Workplace Safety** - Reform OSHA to increase compliance, reduce wasteful expenses and cut bureaucratic red tape in order to help minimize workplace accidents

**Higher Education Reauthorization** - Support accessibility and affordability of higher education for all students, and stronger links between post-secondary institutions and businesses

## ***Katrina's impact on the Gulf Coast was devastating to land, infrastructure, the local economy and to those living in the region.***

---

The Gulf Coast region faces short-term financial hardship. However nationally, we have seen strong economic growth:

- Over 4 million new jobs created in the past 2 years,
- Unemployment rate dropped below 5.0% in August to 4.9%, the lowest since 9/11/01,
- Increased revenue flows from the strong economy have resulted in a \$94 billion reduction in the currently projected budget deficit to \$333 billion or 2.7% of GDP.

We will rebuild the Gulf Coast region while creating more jobs and continuing our national economic growth.

## ***Consumers are feeling the strain on their wallets as gas prices continue to increase. Increasing U.S. production of oil can help increase our nation's supply and produce long-term benefits:***

---

- It is estimated that ANWR could produce 1 million barrels of oil a day - more than 25% of current U.S. production.
- Estimates reveal that developing ANWR would create upwards of one million jobs and could contribute up to \$350 billion to the U.S. economy.
- Producing more of our own oil will better protect U.S. consumers and our economy from the impact of price hikes and supply constraints in the global oil market.

## ***Agenda & Accomplishments - Senate Republicans are Working to Create More Jobs and Put More Money in the Pockets of the American People:***

---

- Passed and President signed into law a Highway Bill to make our roads safer, strengthen our infrastructure and create jobs.
- Passed and President signed into law an Energy Bill providing clean, affordable energy for a growing secure economy, and protecting nearly 2 million jobs over the next decade.
- Passed and President signed into law CAFTA which will open up new markets for American goods by reducing hefty tariffs and leveling the playing field for American farmers, manufacturers, and workers.
- Passed a Budget that protects America, promotes economic growth, cuts taxes and keeps the United States on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009.
- Passed and President signed into law Class Action Reform to prevent greedy personal injury lawyers from pushing frivolous lawsuits, causing Americans to lose jobs.
- Passed and President signed into law Bankruptcy Reform so that people who are responsible and pay their bills on time do not have to subsidize the irresponsible actions of a few.

*Source: Senate Republican Conference*

## State Employment Statistics – August 2005

Provided by the Joint Economic Committee (JEC) – <http://jec.senate.gov>

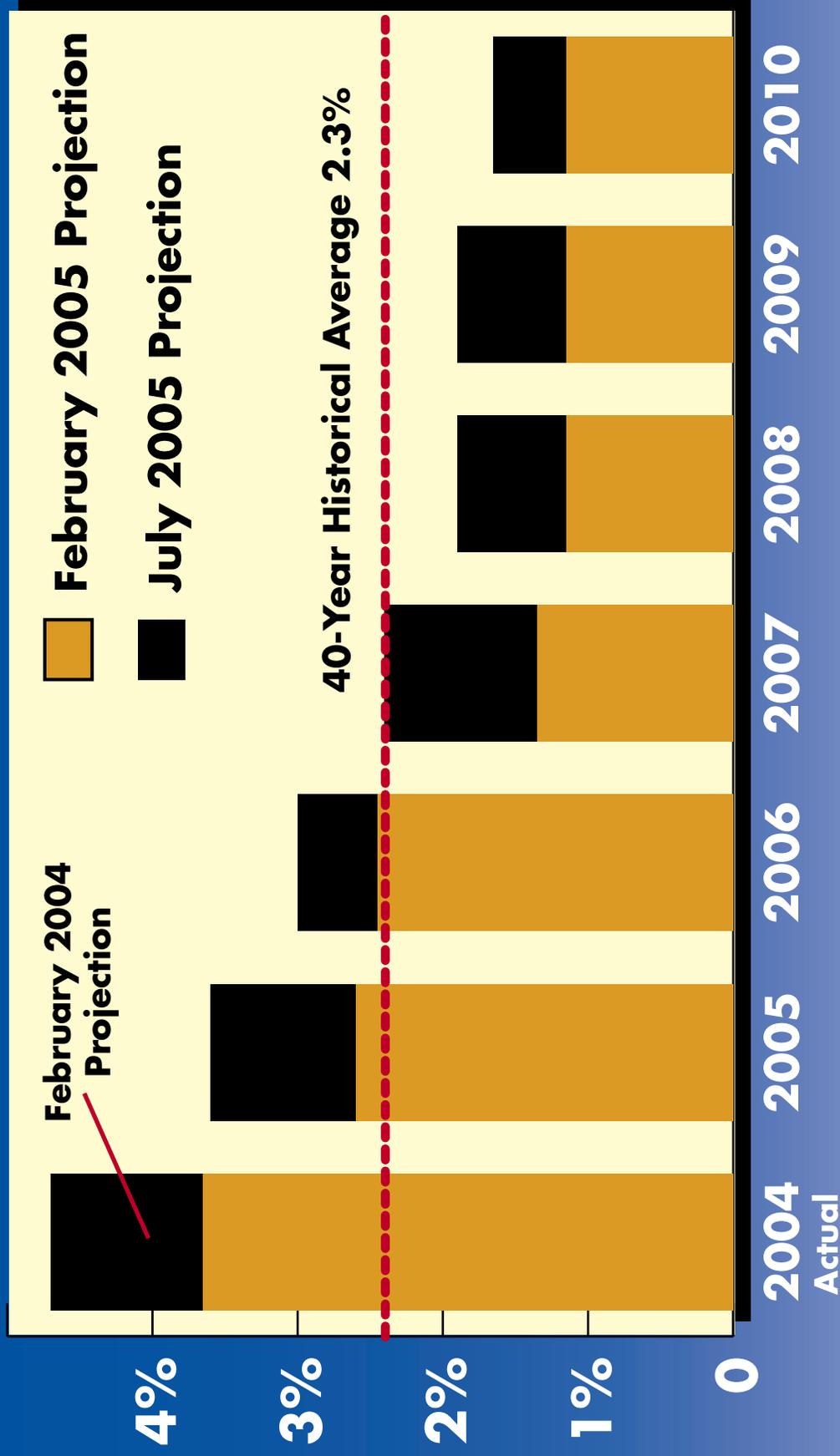
	<u>Change in Employment in Aug. 2005*</u>	<u>Change in Employment Aug. 2004 to Aug. 2005*</u>	<u>Unemployment Rate</u>
Alabama	(1,100)	25,800	3.8%
Alaska	(500)	5,300	6.6%
Arizona	9,400	98,800	4.6%
Arkansas	(800)	13,900	5.1%
California	17,200	223,300	5.2%
Colorado	4,600	52,900	5.0%
Connecticut	1,600	19,700	5.4%
Delaware	800	8,300	4.0%
D.C.	1,600	11,300	6.4%
Florida	8,600	252,600	3.6%
Georgia	15,500	40,000	5.1%
Hawaii	2,300	18,200	2.6%
Idaho	100	23,900	3.8%
Illinois	4,000	57,600	5.8%
Indiana	(8,800)	29,400	5.4%
Iowa	(2,500)	19,200	4.3%
Kansas	(1,900)	11,700	5.1%
Kentucky	3,400	24,000	5.4%
Louisiana	2,900	11,700	5.8%
Maine	2,100	6,200	5.0%
Maryland	(9,200)	44,700	4.4%
Massachusetts	(5,100)	29,500	4.2%
Michigan	8,300	(48,700)	6.7%
Minnesota	2,700	40,500	3.7%
Mississippi	1,100	13,900	6.8%
Missouri	15,500	52,600	4.6%
Montana	(700)	9,900	4.5%
Nebraska	(600)	8,000	3.9%
Nevada	(1,300)	72,300	4.1%
New Hampshire	2,400	14,300	3.5%
New Jersey	1,800	48,800	4.2%
New Mexico	900	15,800	5.3%
New York	7,000	80,600	4.7%
North Carolina	(4,800)	35,700	5.6%
North Dakota	(200)	3,400	3.4%
Ohio	(4,000)	6,600	5.9%
Oklahoma	2,300	27,600	4.4%
Oregon	5,300	55,100	6.7%
Pennsylvania	4,700	71,000	5.0%
Rhode Island	(600)	6,400	5.2%
South Carolina	7,000	900	6.2%
South Dakota	1,500	8,500	3.8%
Tennessee	5,100	27,100	5.3%
Texas	6,900	127,800	5.1%
Utah	1,000	39,600	4.4%
Vermont	600	5,400	3.5%
Virginia	3,100	54,700	3.7%
Washington	2,800	73,400	5.8%
West Virginia	(1,200)	5,900	5.5%
Wisconsin	600	15,900	4.6%
Wyoming	(300)	7,200	4.0%

\*Black indicates job gains and red indicates job losses.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor - <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/las.toc.htm> (Accessed 9/16/2005)

# A Declining Budget Deficit

Percent of GDP



## Miers Nomination



# Harriet Miers Biography

---



- Harriet Miers was born in Dallas, Texas on August 10, 1945.
- Ms. Miers received her bachelor's degree in Mathematics in 1967 and J.D. in 1970 from Southern Methodist University.
- Upon graduation, she clerked for U.S. District Judge Joe E. Estes from 1970 to 1972.
- In 1972, Ms. Miers became the first woman hired at Dallas's Locke Purnell Rain Harrell.
- In March 1996, her colleagues elected her the first female President of Locke, Purnell, Rain & Harrell, at that time a firm of about 200 lawyers. She became the first female to lead a Texas firm of that size.
- Locke, Purnell eventually merged with a Houston firm and became Locke Liddell & Sapp, LLP, where Ms. Miers became Co-Managing Partner and helped manage an over-400-lawyer firm.
- Ms. Miers had a very distinguished career as a trial litigator, representing such clients as Microsoft, Walt Disney Co. and SunGard Data Systems Inc.
- Throughout her career, she has been very active in the legal community and has blazed a trail for other women to follow.
  - In 1985, Ms. Miers was selected as the first woman to become President of the Dallas Bar Association.
  - In 1992, she became the first woman elected President of the State Bar of Texas. Ms. Miers served as the President of the State Bar of Texas from 1992 to 1993.
  - She played an active role in the American Bar Association. She was one of two candidates for the Number 2 position at the ABA, chair of the House of Delegates, before withdrawing her candidacy to move to Washington to serve in the White House. Ms. Miers also served as the chair of the ABA's Commission on Multijurisdictional Practice.
- On numerous occasions, the National Law Journal named her one of the Nation's 100 most powerful attorneys, and as one of the Nation's top 50 women lawyers.
- Ms. Miers also has been involved in local and statewide politics in Texas.
  - In 1989, she was elected to a two-year term as an at-large candidate on the Dallas City Council. She chose not to run for re-election when her term expired.
  - Ms. Miers also served as general counsel for the transition team of Governor-elect George W. Bush in 1994.

- From 1995 until 2000, Ms. Miers served as Chairwoman of the Texas Lottery Commission, a voluntary public service position she undertook while maintaining her legal practice and other responsibilities. When then-Governor Bush appointed Ms. Miers to a six-year term on the Texas Lottery Commission, it was mired in scandal, and she served as a driving force behind its cleanup.
- Ms. Miers came to Washington D.C. in 2001 and began a period of distinguished and dedicated service that continues today.
  - She was appointed to be Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary on January 20, 2001.
  - In 2003, Ms. Miers was promoted to be Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff.
  - Ms. Miers has served as Counsel to the President since February, 2005.
- She is single and very close to her family: two brothers and her mother live in Dallas and a third brother lives in Houston.

Katrina/Poverty





## Hurricane Relief

### Immediate Action:

- **Human suffering is a reality that families across the Gulf Coast are facing.**
- **We have responded and will continue to respond:**
  - Two Emergency Supplementals totaling over \$62 billion
  - Solicitation of Katrina Donations
  - Emergency Courts
  - TANF relief
  - Pell Grant relief
  - Student Grant Disaster Relief
  - Flood Insurance bill - \$2 billion
  - Flood Insurance
  - Tax Relief Package
  - Student Aid Waiver
  - Education Reimbursement
  - Flexibility for Displaced Workers
  - Water Infrastructure Emergency Assistance
  - Emergency Airport Improvement Project Grants in Aid
  - Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities
- **We will ensure that funding is allocated effectively and responsibly so that there is a positive, long-term impact to best help those in need.**

**Americans have led by example and opened their hearts and wallets to those in need:**

#### Charitable donation totals:

- The American Red Cross - \$1.1 billion in gifts and pledges (*as of 10/04/05*)

### Long-term Action:

- **The suffering will continue in the months and years ahead.**
- **We will continue to move “Gulf Coast Recovery” legislative items focusing on:**

**Relief** - Providing the necessary resources to aid victims.

**Coordination** - Maximizing effectiveness and innovation.

**Social Services** - Helping families, children and seniors with educational, health care, and housing needs in ways that meet their needs effectively and empower them.

**Economic Development** - Rebuilding infrastructure and creating jobs through efficient market based approaches.

**Public-Private Partnerships** - Encouraging partnerships between government and the private sector for long-term success and to create opportunity.

**Charitable Giving** - Building on the generosity of Americans through charitable and religious institutions and business contributions.

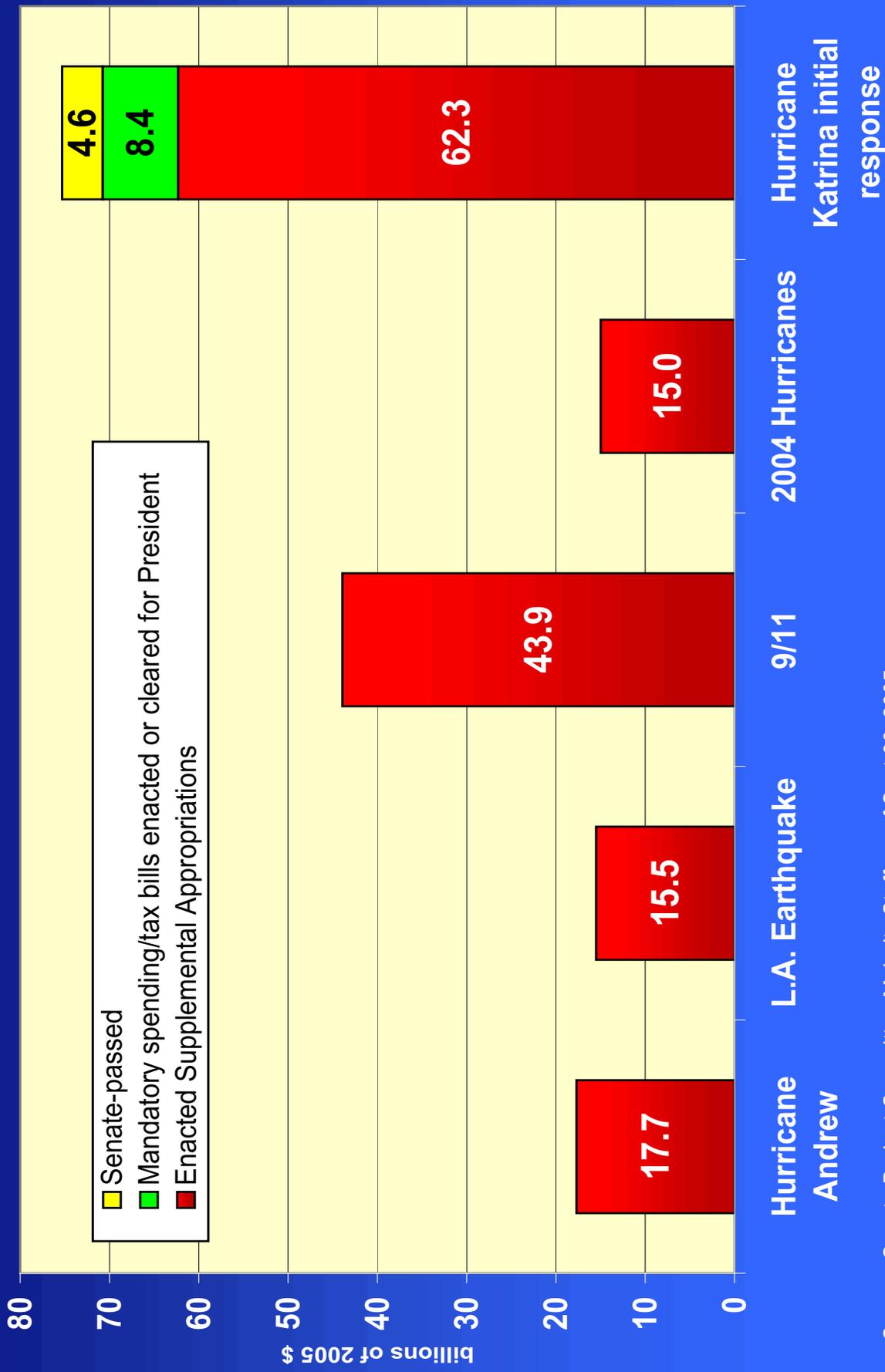
**Accountability** - Making sure that resources are used effectively, eliminating fraud and profiteering, and maximizing leveraging of resources.

**Specifically, there are several items on the Senate Republican Anti-Poverty agenda that can assist in the recovery:**

- The Charity, Aid, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act - charitable giving incentives to assist those in need.
- The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) - longer term extension for private sector hiring incentives for those off of welfare for stability and common sense reforms.
- The Community Development Homeownership Tax Credit Act - private sector incentives for single family affordable housing.
- The Savings for Working Families Act - matched savings accounts for longer-term asset building purposes.

# Supplemental Spending in Response to Domestic Emergencies

(\$ in billions, constant 2005 dollars)



Source: Senate Budget Committee Majority Staff, as of Sept. 30, 2005

# Senate Republican Poverty Alleviation Agenda

## Empowering Families in Need



**Charitable Giving/CARE Act:** Boost charitable giving and assist faith-based and community charities to help millions more people in need.

**Welfare Reform Reauthorization:** Build on the success of welfare reform to free more people from the cycle of welfare dependency by expanding work opportunity and strengthening families.

**Hunger Relief:** Promote incentives to encourage food donation and delivery.

**Individual Development Accounts:** Provide low-income, working Americans the opportunity to build assets through matched savings accounts.

**Work Opportunity Tax Credit/Welfare-to-Work:** Help welfare recipients find jobs that transition them from dependence to self-sufficiency.

**Low-income Housing Assistance:** Encourage the rehabilitation and construction of affordable housing and consider GSE reforms to help low-income families.

**Faith-based as Full Partners:** Ensure faith-based organizations have a level playing field to compete for federal grants to deliver essential social services.

**Prisoner Reentry/Mentoring:** Help those forgotten in the nation's prisons and their children by providing more support and facilitating a healthy reentry into society.

**Charitable Liability Reform:** Provide liability protections for businesses and individuals that make equipment and facilities available for charitable purposes.

**Vouchers:** Create a commission to develop proposals on expanding choice for beneficiaries to improve options and social service delivery for those in need.

**Family Opportunity Act:** Expand eligibility under the Medicaid program to help low-income families obtain services their severely disabled children need.

**Marriage Penalty Relief/Child Tax Credit:** Permanently eliminate the unfair tax burden on married couples and make permanent the child tax credit to reduce child poverty.