

George Bush for President

9/1/88

THE GEORGE BUSH RECORD ON SENIORS

"We must move rapidly toward a new and positive vision of the role of older Americans in our Society."

Vice President Bush
Issue Statement, 1988

LONG-TERM CARE

In his 1980 campaign, George Bush stated that:

- o "I have long supported efforts to provide for coverage of the costs of serious, long-term, or chronic illness. I believe this nation and its citizens must have a program to cover catastrophic medical expenses for everyone unable to handle them."

George Bush: Health Care For
The 1980s, 1980

Catastrophic Illness

Vice President Bush applauded the Catastrophic Health Bill passed by the Congress on June 8, 1988. He called it a "landmark piece of legislation."

- o "The legislation ... will, for the first time since the founding of Medicare, extend benefits for our seniors. Now they do not have to live in fear that their life's savings would be wiped out by a prolonged hospitalization."
- o "I was particularly pleased that the final bill contains a provision to eliminate the threat of spousal impoverishment from long term health costs. I have advocated this as a major part of the solution to the problem of long term care. No spouse should become broke paying the cost of his or her partner's nursing home costs."

Statement by the Vice
President, June 9, 1988

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RETIREMENT INCOME

Vice President Bush believes that the two most important things that a President can do for people who live on a fixed income are, 1) support economic policies that keep inflation low and, 2) not to treat Social Security as a partisan issue.

Social Security Income

George Bush has long shown concern and understanding for the special income difficulties faced by older Americans.

- o In 1969, Congressman Bush sponsored legislation to increase social security benefits by 10 percent across-the-board, index benefits against inflation, and increase benefits for the children of disabled or deceased workers, widows, and parents of deceased workers.
- o "We are going to keep the social security trust fund sound... and I am not going to let them take it away from you."

Remarks of Vice President Bush
New Orleans, La., 8/18/88

Economic Policies

The Carter Administration policies of tax and spend brought millions of America's seniors to economic desperation.

- o "For millions of Americans, the 1970's has been a decade of shattering aspirations. Their hopes for securing a higher standard of living, for saving enough to pay for their children's education, and for providing more for their retirement are daily crushed by inflation and economic stagnation."

George Bush: An Economic Policy For The 80's, 1980

Eight years of Reagan-Bush economic policies have turned that around -- a Bush Administration "won't let them take that away either."

- o "If we are not vigilant in support of sound economic policies, inflation could creep right back up. That is why I pledge to continue the economic policies which have brought low

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inflation, low taxes, and low interest rates. A Bush Administration will cooperate with the Federal Reserve to keep the economy growing without reigniting inflation."

Vice President Bush
Issue Statement, 1988

Non-Partisan Issue

- o "I will not treat Social Security as a partisan issue. Thanks to reforms enacted by our Administration in 1983, the Social Security Trust Fund will be solvent well into the 21st century. We need to ensure that current beneficiaries receive the benefits to which they are entitled and that today's workers have confidence that there will be a solvent Social Security system when they retire."

Vice President Bush
Issue Statement, 1988

Private Pensions

Vice President Bush believes that private pensions should be a central element in any strategy to prepare for sound retirement income programs.

- o "We must not only encourage greater accumulation of pension funds in our economy, but also covering a far broader cross-section of our work force."
- o "... We should be cautious of viewing [private] pensions as a substitute for -- or a way to 'take pressure off' -- Social Security."
- o "By adding to the income security of future retirees, they will help fulfill our common goal of ensuring that all senior Americans are well provided for."

Vice President Bush
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"Notch Babies"

"Our senior citizens deserve to be treated fairly and with respect. If elected President, I will work with Congress to see if we can come up with a fiscally responsible way to ensure that our "notch babies" are treated fairly."

Vice President Bush
Issue Statement, 1988

MANAGING MEDICARE

"Seniors must feel secure in the knowledge that their basic medical needs will continue to be covered by Medicare."

Vice President Bush
Issue Statement, 1988

General

"We ... need to promote better management of our health care system so that our resources are used more efficiently and so that health costs do not erode our capacity to provide for other human needs."

George Bush: Health Care For
The 1980's, 1980

Costs

"...We now spend eleven percent of our GNP on medical care... we must find ways of covering the costs of health care without sacrificing its quality."

Vice President Bush
Issue Statement, 1988

Guidance

Several principles, according to the Vice President, must guide efforts to control costs:

- o "The less that government is involved in the day-to-day administration of health care, the more efficiently it will run."

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- o "More efficient administration of health care must be encouraged."

Vice President Bush
Issue Statement, 1988

Efficiencies

Cost saving possibilities include:

- o "I have supported the Administration's effort to slow the increase in hospital costs through the institution of the Prospective Payment System... Many of these same techniques can be applied to physician and outpatient services as well. But, I am skeptical of regulatory schemes that could have the unintended effect of lowering the quality of health care."
- o "We also need to do more to promote the option of enrolling in innovative plans such as Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO) and Preferred Provider Organizations (PPO) and to induce competition among health care providers."
- o "Efficiencies are possible by making government -- as well as private insurers -- better consumers, and by creating the right kinds of tax and program incentives for efficient, high-quality health care services."

Vice President Bush
Issue Statement, 1988

Medicare Trust Funds

The Vice President has warned that the Medicare Trust Funds are in danger.

- o "...Medicare Trust Funds are likely to go bankrupt within the next ten years."
- o "We must address this problem with a bipartisan solution before it is too late. In the meantime, we should exempt Social Security from budget cuts and avoid means-testing it."

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- o "As America's population grows older we must ensure that future benefits can be counted on years in advance."

Vice President Bush
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