ELECTION 2012

FACT SHEET: RHODE ISLAND

Entering office amid an economic crisis, President Obama has consistently fought for the middle class, protecting children, and education. Here is just some of what has been achieved in Rhode Island.

Strengthening the middle class

- The current tax system is NOT fair: In 2010, Rhode Island corporations paid $122 million in state income taxes and individuals paid nearly $1 billion — eight times more. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, State Government Tax Collections Summary Report: 2010)

- The Social Security payroll tax cut instituted by President Obama is a first step to leveling the playing field — $1,000 more in take-home pay for a middle class family earning $50,000 a year. (Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury)

- Over the last two decades, on average the income of the richest 20% of families in Rhode Island rose by more than $43,000 while the income of the poorest 20% of families in Rhode Island remained about the same. For details, see http://bit.ly/jyj6H. (Source: Pulling Apart: A State by State Analysis of Income Trends, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities and the Economic Policy Institute, 2008)

Making college affordable

- President Obama has preserved Pell grants for nearly 20,000 students in Rhode Island. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- Last year alone, the American Opportunity Tax Credit introduced by President Obama helped make college tuition affordable for 32,000 families in Rhode Island. (Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Tax Analysis)
Supporting educators, modernizing schools

- As a result of President Obama’s support for the Education Jobs Fund, signed into law in August 2010, Rhode Island received $33 million that helped keep teachers in the classroom, limit increases in class size, and contain layoffs of counselors, classroom aides, and other education support professionals. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed into law by President Obama in February 2009, funded more than 500 education jobs in Rhode Island. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- President Obama’s American Jobs Act, which the Republican Congress continues to block, would provide $94 million for education jobs, $86 million to modernize schools, and $13 million for community colleges in Rhode Island. (Source: A State by State Guide to the American Jobs Act, whitehouse.gov)

Improving health care

- In 2011, Rhode Island received $400,000 for school-based health centers that provide screenings, conduct health promotion and disease prevention activities, and enable children with acute or chronic illnesses to attend school. (Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration)

- The Affordable Care Act has brought peace of mind to 628,000 people in Rhode Island — they no longer have to worry about lifetime limits. (Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Health Care Law & You, healthcare.gov)

- In 2011, nearly 4,000 young adults in Rhode Island could remain on their parents’ health plans until age 26 — and that number will grow in 2012. Before the Affordable Care Act, many college graduates and other young adults had no insurance. (Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Health Care Law & You, healthcare.gov)