ELECTION 2012

FACT SHEET: SOUTH DAKOTA

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 South Dakota.

Strengthening the middle class

- 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 South Dakota rose by nearly $35,000 while the income of the poorest 20% of families in South Dakota rose by about $3,300 — 10 times more. For details, see [http://bit.ly/jyj6H](http://bit.ly/jyj6H).

Making college affordable

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

- Last year alone, the American Opportunity Tax Credit introduced by President Obama helped make college tuition affordable for 26,000 families in South Dakota. (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, South Dakota received $26 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. At its peak, the Education Jobs Fund supported more than 700 education jobs throughout the state. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed into law by President Obama in February 2009, funded more than 900 education jobs in South Dakota. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- President Obama’s American Jobs Act, which the Republican Congress continues to block, would provide $78 million for education jobs, $76 million to modernize schools, and $5 million for community colleges in South Dakota. (Source: A State by State Guide to the American Jobs Act, whitehouse.gov)

Improving health care

- In 2011, South Dakota received $613,000 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 485,000 people in South Dakota — 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 3,000 young adults in South Dakota 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)