ELECTION 2012

FACT SHEET: WASHINGTON

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 Washington.

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 Washington rose by nearly $40,000 while the income of the poorest 20% of families in Washington remained about the same. For details, see http://bit.ly/jyi6H. (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 more than 130,000 students in Washington. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- Last year alone, the American Opportunity Tax Credit introduced by President Obama helped make college tuition affordable for 171,000 families in Washington. (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, Washington received $208 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 nearly 3,000 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 10,300 education jobs in Washington. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- President Obama’s American Jobs Act, which the Republican Congress continues to block, would provide $628 million for education jobs, $365 million to modernize schools, and $84 million for community colleges in Washington. (Source: A State by State Guide to the American Jobs Act, whitehouse.gov)

Improving health care

- In 2011, Washington received $1.6 million 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 4.1 million people in Washington — 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 26,000 young adults in Washington 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)