

WELFARE OUTRAGES

1. Obama Ag Secretary Vilsack: Food Stamps Are A “Stimulus”

Secretary Vilsack, “I should point out, when you talk about the SNAP program or the food stamp program, you have to recognize that it's also an economic stimulus. Every dollar of SNAP benefits generates \$1.84 in the economy in terms of economic activity. If people are able to buy a little more in the grocery store, someone has to stock it, package it, shelve it, process it, ship it. All of those are jobs. It's the most direct stimulus you can get in the economy during these tough times.”

“Obama Ag Secretary Vilsack: Food Stamps Are A ‘Stimulus’”

Real Clear Politics, August 16, 2011.

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2011/08/16/obama_ag_secretary_vilsack_food_stamps_are_a_stimulus.html

2. USDA Partners with Mexico to Drive SNAP Enrollment

The Mexican government distributed information about the U.S. food stamp program through its embassy and dozens of consular offices in conjunction with a Spanish language ad campaign paid for by the USDA encouraging immigrant residents to sign up for food stamps.

“Senator Says Food Stamp Partnership with Mexico ‘Pressuring’ Immigrants to Enroll”

FoxNews.com, July 19, 2012.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/07/19/senator-says-food-stamp-partnership-with-mexico-pressuring-immigrants-to-enroll/>

Senator Sessions press release regarding the USDA stopping the ad campaign:

“As USDA Nixes Controversial Food Stamp Ads, Sessions Demands Top-Down Review of Program’s Administration”

Office of Sen. Jeff Sessions, Press Release, July 13, 2012.

<http://budget.senate.gov/republican/public/index.cfm/2012/7/sessions>

Senator Sessions requests documents on USDA Food Stamp advertising program:

“Sessions Asks USDA to Furnish Docs, Info on SNAP Recruitment Campaign with Mexico”

Senate Budget Committee Republicans, Press Release, July 19, 2012.

<http://budget.senate.gov/republican/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=35a2c8db-1974-42af-9a50-c09a039f520e>

USDA acknowledges working with Mexico to expand welfare participation in U.S.

“Sessions: USDA Reply Acknowledges Ongoing Program with Mexico To Expand Welfare, Fails to Include Requested Docs”

Senate Budget Committee Republicans, Press Release, July 26, 2012.

<http://budget.senate.gov/republican/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=0b7bb68e-aa40-4d4a-86e1-3b5b346dc132>

3. Department of Homeland Security Promotes Welfare Reliance to New Immigrants

The Department of Homeland Security is promoting and encouraging welfare dependence among new immigrants.

“Sessions: DHS Must Remove Welfare Promotions for New Immigrants”

Senate Budget Committee Republicans, Press Release, November 19, 2012.

<http://budget.senate.gov/republican/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=5364ba33-8eba-4e99-a15a-33518715bfc0>

4. Department of Homeland Security Refuses to Provide Congress with Data Regarding Welfare Restrictions for Immigrants Seeking Admittance to U.S.

The Department of Homeland Security won't release data regarding Visa and Data Reliance program compliance with federal welfare laws.

“Administration Shrouds Visa Data in Secrecy As Evidence Shows Welfare Law Not Being Enforced”

Senate Budget Committee Republicans, October 2, 2012.

<http://budget.senate.gov/republican/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=7ff581af-520c-4a05-ab6b-bff570f88c9e>

5. USDA Pressuring Reluctant Americans and Immigrants to “Swallow Pride” and Sign Up for Food Stamps

The United State Department of Agriculture is aggressively pushing to increase the size of welfare rolls regardless of need by overcoming the pride of self-reliant Americans and immigrants.

“Session Calls USDA’s Food Stamp Tactics Into Question”;

Senate Budget Committee Republicans, July 12, 2012.

<http://budget.senate.gov/republican/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=1871b46b-20ee-4388-8b04-7b0e9b418ae9>

6. Disability Rolls Grew Faster than Job Creation

According to a Congressional Budget Office report, in a recent three month time period more, the number of American who found a job was less than the number who qualified to start receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits.

“CBO Issues Sessions-Requested Report on Dramatic Surge in Americans Receiving Disability Insurance”

Senate Budget Committee Republicans, Press Release, July 16, 2012.
<http://budget.senate.gov/republican/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=d5539908-4b30-4060-ac45-3614fd8b395b>

“The Social Security Disability Insurance Program – Infographic”
Congressional Budget Office, July 16, 2012.
<http://www.cbo.gov/publication/43432>

7. Pushed to the Brink: Washington State Asks Feds to Send their Medicaid Funding as a Block Grant

Because of funding concerns, Washington State was forced to seek solutions and in a bi-partisan initiative they voted to ask the federal government to provide their Medicaid funding to the state as a block grant.

“Liberal Washington State Tries to Kiss Medicaid Goodbye”
Wall Street Journal, June 4, 2011.
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303657404576363812467438234.html>

8. Medicaid Fraud in Washington DC Includes Payments for Dead People

The District of Columbia paid out nearly \$700,000 in Medicaid payments for dead people, with one payment occurring nearly nine years after the patient died, a recent audit shows.

“D.C. Pays Almost \$700k for Dead Patients’ Health Care”
Liz Farmer, Washington Examiner, March 4, 2012.
<http://washingtonexaminer.com/d.c.-pays-almost-700k-for-dead-patients-health-care/article/338541>

“Audit of Medicaid Claims at the Department of Health Care Finance”
Charles J. Willoughby, Inspector General; Government of the District of Columbia, February 16, 2012.
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/83846654/Updated-OIG-No-09-2-29HF-Medicaid-Claims-at-DHCF-Final-Report>

9. Massachusetts Treating College Students as Welfare Cases

Massachusetts is Counting College Attendance as work for 12 months for welfare purposes, and then counts participation in work-study programs as fulfilling welfare work requirements after that.

“Will DTA Approve College Attendance?”
MassLegalHelp.
<http://www.masslegalhelp.org/income-benefits/tafdc/advocacy-guide/part5/q97-will-dta-approve-college-attendance>

Massachusetts is Encouraging College Students to Apply for Food Stamps:

“Can I get SNAP/Food Stamps if I am in College”
MassLegalHelp.
<http://www.masslegalhelp.org/income-benefits/food-stamps/college?op>

Welfare Eligibility Extended to Include Massachusetts' College Students:

“Transitional Aid for Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)”
MassLegalHelp.

<http://www.masslegalhelp.org/school/beyond-financial-aid-2010/tafdc>

10. GOP Senators Voice Concern Regarding Potential Food Stamp Abuse by Paid Federal Government Volunteers

The federal government's Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) encourages its “paid” volunteers to inappropriately use food stamp benefits by encouraging their volunteers to first enroll in the Food Stamp program before they start getting paid by CNCS for “volunteer” activities in order to avoid Food Stamp income eligibility limitations.

“GOP Senators Voice Concern About Potential Food Stamp Abuse by Government Volunteers”

Caroline May; The Daily Caller; December 5, 2012.

<http://dailycaller.com/2012/12/05/gop-senators-voice-concern-about-potential-food-stamp-abuse-by-government-volunteers/>

11. U.S. Directly Deposited Welfare Payments to Person Using ATM – In Vietnam

In 2011 the federal government directly deposited \$5,262 in improper welfare payments into the bank account that were withdrawn from an ATM in Hanoi Vietnam.

“U.S. Directly Deposited Welfare Payments to Person Using ATM- In Vietnam”
Matt Cover, CNS News, October 18, 2012.

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/us-directly-deposited-welfare-payments-person-using-atm-vietnam>

12. The Food Stamp Crime Wave

The number of food-stamp recipients has soared to 44 million from 26 million in 2007. Not surprisingly, fraud and abuse are rampant. Millionaires are now legally entitled to collect food stamps as long as they have little or no monthly income. Thirty-five states have abolished asset tests for most food-stamp recipients. These and similar “paperwork reduction” reforms advocated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are turning the food-stamp program into a magnet for abuses and absurdities.

“The Food-Stamp Crime Wave”

James Bovard, Wall Street Journal, June 23, 2011.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304657804576401412033504294.html>

13. \$2 Million Michigan Lottery Winner On Food Stamps

A Michigan Lottery \$2 million jackpot winner from last year is eligible and collecting some Food Stamps – after buying a new house and a car with his winnings. Since there is no longer any asset test in order to qualify for Food Stamps, the amount of income he receives from investing his remaining winnings still makes him eligible to receive Food Stamps paid for by taxpayers. "We are actively seeking a change to the food assistance policy, which is a federal policy, to ensure that those who are truly needy qualify," a state human services department spokeswoman said.

“\$2 Million Michigan Lottery Winner On Food Stamps”

Reuters, May 18, 2011.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/18/us-michigan-lottery-idUSTRE74H60W20110518>

14. Seattle Welfare Recipient Lives in Million Dollar Home

Despite living in a 2,500 square-foot home valued at \$1.2 million, a woman from Lake Washington, Seattle was receiving \$1,200 a month in public housing vouchers, and monthly disability checks from the federal and state governments as well as Food Stamp benefits.

“Feds: Seattle welfare recipient lives in million dollar home”

Chris Ingalls, King 5 News, December 2, 2011.

<http://www.king5.com/news/local/Feds--Seattle-welfare-recipient-lived-in-million-dollar-home-134943613.html>

15. 18 People Charged in Food Stamp Fraud

18 people and merchants in Arizona were accused of defrauding the federal government of an estimated \$700,000 in food stamp benefits. In their scheme so-called “legitimate” food stamp recipients were selling their food EBT cards for cash to retailers for 50 cents on the dollar.

“18 people charged in food stamps fraud”

Howard Fischer, AZ Daily Sun, July 15, 2011.

http://azdailysun.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/people-charged-in-food-stamps-fraud/article_54a10fca-51a7-5b4a-befb-91dbd06a7777.html

16. Food Stamp EBT Cards Used to Withdraw Cash from ATMs at Casinos, Liquor Stores, and Strip Clubs

To prevent TANF recipients from using their Food Stamp benefits in casinos, strip clubs, and liquor stores, the House passed and the President signed the “WIN for Children and Families Act” on February 22, 2012. The Act required states to ban the use of Food Stamp EBT cards to withdraw cash at ATM machines located in casinos, strip clubs, and liquor stores.

“Welfare Integrity Now for Children and Families Act of 2012”

Signed into law 2/22/2012 as part of P.L. 112-96, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.112hr3567>

17. Arrested Heroin Dealer Uses Food Stamp EBT Card to Post Bail in Massachusetts

Bostonian Kimball Clark, 45, was in jail on drug-dealing charges and was overheard using his one phone call to ask a friend to get cash from an ATM using Clark's Food Stamp EBT card.

“Arrested Heroin Dealer Uses EBT Card to Post Bail in Massachusetts”
The Washington Free Beacon, April 11, 2012.

<http://freebeacon.com/arrested-heroin-dealer-uses-ebt-card-to-post-bail-in-massachusetts/>

18. Food Companies Lobbying to Keep Their Foods Off of Food Stamp Exclusion Lists

Food Stamp recipients are allowed to purchase many types of unhealthy snacks -- including salty snacks like potato chips and candy. These products have remained available to food stamp recipients in part because of heavy lobbying by the corporations that manufacture and sell them.

“Food Stamps: Fat Times Food Companies, Recipients in \$72B Program”
Alan Farnham, ABC News, September 7, 2012.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/food-stamps-making-food-companies-fat/story?id=17166643#.UMTYmeTAewQ>

19. Clerk Who Refused to Take an EBT Card to Pay for Cigarettes is Fired

A New Hampshire store clerk was fired after she refused to take a customer's Electronic Balance Transfer card to pay for cigarettes.

Clerk loses job over stand; Garrett Brnger; Sentinel Source; June 27, 2012;

http://www.sentinelsource.com/news/local/clerk-loses-job-over-stand/article_87627ed5-5d4e-5ff0-a781-f14deb034771.html

20. Massachusetts Baker Defies Farmers Market and Refuses to Allow Food Stamp EBT User to Buy Sweets at Her Bakery Counter

A Walpole, Massachusetts baker is refusing to sell her pies to Food Stamp recipients using EBT cards at the Farmer's Market that she participates in, causing an uproar from the Market's organizers and shining a spotlight on Food Stamp abuse.

“Baker feels heat for denying EBT users from buying her sweets”

Chris Cassidy, Boston Herald, August 15, 2012.

http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2012/08/baker_feels_heat_denying_ebt_users_buying_her_sweets