

SUPPORTING MATERIAL FOR DEMOCRATIC COURAGE'S "BLOWIN' IN THE WIND" AD

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SEPT. 28 – CLINTON PASSIONATELY ADVOCATES BABY BOND PROGRAM

On September 28, 2007, Hillary Clinton appeared before the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and delivered a passionate proposal for giving every baby born in America a \$5000 account that "would grow over time."

I like the idea of giving every baby born in America a \$5,000 account that will grow over time. So, when that young person turns 18, if they have finished high school, they will be able to access it to go to college or maybe they will be able to put that down payment on their first home, or go into business. (Webcast available at: http://www.broadcasturban.net/webcast/cbcf2007/fri_clinton.htm (about 40 percent in))

JULY 24, 2006 - CLINTON HERSELF HAD ALREADY FORMALLY PROPOSED BABY BONDS

In 2006, Clinton made a major formal speech to the Democratic Leadership Council, during which she put baby bonds (at the time for just \$1000) at the center of her "American Dream Initiative."

We need to give every child a shot at getting into the middle class and building his or her own stake in America. Today the chance to get ahead depends more and more on the family to which you are born. That wasn't the way in America in the past. It really depends upon whether your family has the assets to take advantage of opportunities. That is why the American dream initiative proposes that our country follow Britain's lead by providing a baby bond to each of the 4 million children born in America every year, a \$500 savings bond at birth and again at age 10. It signals louder than words and rhetoric that America is investing in its children, and it provides an incentive to encourage parents, even low-income parents to invest more in their own child's future.

(Clinton, Hillary. "Remarks of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton at the 2006 DLC National Conversation" July 24, 2006
(http://www.dlc.org/ndol_ci.cfm?contentid=253996&kaid=137&subid=900111)

CLINTON'S CAMPAIGN WAS ALREADY COMMITTED TO BABY BONDS AND WAS JUST WORKING OUT THE DETAILS

It's not surprising that Clinton would be enthusiastic about the idea. ABC News reported that her campaign was just figuring out the details of the baby bonds proposal, trying to ensure that every American received \$20,000 from the government when they turned 18.

The vice president of a Washington, D.C., think tank at the forefront of pushing the "baby bond" concept welcomed Clinton's Friday remarks.

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"I'm pleased that Sen. Clinton keeps talking about 'baby bonds,' whether \$500 or \$5,000 at birth," said Ray Boshara, the vice president of the New America Foundation.

Boshara, who has worked with Clinton's policy staff on the concept, did not see the different dollar figure floated by Clinton on Friday as reflecting a definite policy change. Rather, he saw it as an affirmation of her excitement with the concept and expects her to continue to work out the details when she develops a formal proposal.

"I think Sen. Clinton is very, very excited about accounts at birth and hasn't settled on the right combination between initial deposits and matching deposits until 18," said Boshara. "She and her staff told me in the next several months we'll work on the details. . . . When we work out the details, we'll figure out the best way to get to around \$20,000 at 18 --that's what matters." – Davis, Teddy and Eloise Harper. "Clinton Floats \$5000 Baby Bond," ABC News, September 28, 2007. (<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Story?id=3668781&page=2>)

See also Abcarian, Robin. "Baby-bonds not necessarily out of left field," *Los Angeles Times*. October 7, 2007. (<http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-babybonds7oct07,1,3705916.story>)

TIME MAGAZINE HAD RECENTLY TOUTED BABY BONDS

Time Magazine had just weeks earlier featured an article by Managing Editor Richard Stengel arguing for \$5000 baby bonds, but urging that it be tied to national service. Baby Bonds would, as Stengel argued, function like a new GI bill, giving every American enhanced educational and business opportunities, especially those who served their country (Stengel, Richard. "A Time to Serve" *Time*. August 30, 2007. (<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1657799-2,00.html>))

RICK SANTORUM AND JON CORZINE HAD INTRODUCED A BABY BOND BILL

In 2004 Senators Rick Santorum and Jon Corzine proposed the America Saving for Personal Investment, Retirement, and Education (ASPIRE Act), which would have given every baby \$500 that they could use when they reached the age of 18. Britain's Child Trust Fund, inaugurated in 2005 is a similar "baby bonds" program:
http://www.childtrustfund.gov.uk/templates/Page_____1147.aspx

THE INTIMIDATION STARTS

Despite the passion for the idea Clinton clearly displays and having proposed it formally before, the Clinton campaign grew worried about the instant Republican attacks on her. Perhaps sensing that Clinton wouldn't stand up to Republican attacks, Clinton spokesman Phil Singer tried to reclassify it as "not a formal policy proposal, but an idea under consideration."

SEPT. 28 - THE REPUBLICAN ATTACKS

Rudy Giuliani appeared with Sean Hannity on FOX just hours later and said:

This is I guess, you know, a chicken in every pot kind of a campaign. Pander to everyone. The idea of a 5,000 dollar bond for every child born in the United States, we've got four million that are born in the United States every year, rough math that would be at least 20 billion dollars more in federal spending. And the idea--an awful lot of kids would be getting that bond that don't need

it, right? ... I mean no disrespect to Mr. [Bill] Gates, but his children would get it, right? ... It's not that every American can't afford college. Programs to help kids that can't afford college make sense. But this is, you know, this is a deeper thing ... This is a campaign based on pandering to the point where I think they think the American people are stupid." Available at <http://blogs.usatoday.com/onpolitics/2007/09/clinton-support.html>

The RNC put out a "Hillary's Baby Boom" release (<http://www.gop.com/media/PDFs/092807Research2.pdf>) blasting Clinton for her "Budget Busting Baby Fund, Adding to Her Astronomical Spending Spree."

OCT. 5 - GIULIANI PRINTS BONDS WITH HILLARY'S PICTURE ON THEM



OCT. 5 - GIULIANI USES TYPICAL REPUBLICAN SCARE TACTICS, LABELS PLAN "SOCIALIST," LINKS IT TO IMMIGRANT-BASHING

Speaking before the right wing group Americans for Prosperity on October 5, Giuliani delivered a lengthy and detailed critique of the baby bonds idea, saying "Bad socialist ideas never die" and asking if "children of illegal immigrants will have to get this bond." It was the most despicable kind of Republican scare tactics, and should have merited an aggressive riposte from the Clinton campaign. (Giuliani, Rudy. Remarks at the Americans for Prosperity Foundation Defending the American Dream Summit, Washington, D.C., October 5, 2007 (<http://www.joinrudy2008.com/article/pr/853>)).

OCT. 5 – HILLARY BEGINS A SLOW SURRENDER

In response to Giuliani's disgusting red-baiting and immigrant-bashing, Hillary didn't criticize Giuliani, but instead emboldened him by beginning to back off both the formal policy proposal she had made to the DLC and the passionate speech she gave to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. "This is an idea I threw out. It is not a policy," she said. "When I come forward with a specific proposal, I will always tell you what I think it will do and how I would pay for it."

OCT. 8 – ANOTHER TOTAL CAPITULATION

Finally, in an October 8 interview with *The Wall Street Journal*, Clinton said she would drop the idea. (Calmes, Jackie. "Clinton Turns to Economic Issues" *The Wall Street Journal*. October 9, 2007. <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119189340326452993.html>).

OCT. 8 – TAKES POOR CHILDREN’S MONEY AND FUNNELS IT TO RELATIVELY WELL-OFF ELDERLY

Clinton now said she was proposing a similar policy – giving \$1000 to Americans with a 401(k). Another good idea, but one with a similar price tag and arguably far less benefit (James, Frank. "Clinton Ditches Baby Bonds, Shifts to Retirement 401K’s" *Chicago Tribune – The Swamp*. October 9, 2007 http://weblogs.chicagotribune.com/news/politics/blog/2007/10/clinton_ditches_baby_bonds_shi.html)

According to Clinton’s own numbers, the retirement plan would cost \$20 - \$25 billion, approximately the same, or slightly greater, cost as the baby bond plan. With senior citizens already receiving Social Security, Medicare, IRA and other retirement benefits, only 9 percent of the elderly population fall below the poverty line, the lowest number of any age group; in contrast, 17 percent of children under 18 are in poverty – meaning there is far greater need for government assistance for children (U.S. Census Bureau. "Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2006," p. 12 August, 2007 (<http://www.census.gov/prod/2007pubs/p60-233.pdf>)). Again, despite Clinton’s repeatedly stated commitment to children’s well being, she is once again sacrificing children’s welfare for what she perceives as political expedience: using money that would have helped lift children out of poverty to instead throw a relatively small amount of money at voters who have less need for it.

OCT. 9 – GIULIANI CROWS AS HILLARY’S SURRENDER SHOWS SHE CAN BE EASILY COWED BY IMMIGRANT-BASHING AND RED-BAITING

Hillary’s surrender gave Rudy Giuliani another reason to crow and paint himself as the real tough-guy, lion-slayer in the race – the one who could take down Hillary Clinton. It also showed that with Clinton red baiting and immigrant bashing would bully her into submission - ensuring that we’ll see a lot more of those tactics this election year.

Hillary Clinton, the governor mentioned, wants to put a lid on us. She wants to put a lid on our growth. We want to give people freedom.

I’ll give you an example. Hillary, the other day—remember the Hillary bond program?

She’s going to give out—she’s going to give \$5,000 to every child born in America, with her picture on it.

(LAUGHTER)

GIULIANI: I think, right, right? OK, OK, OK.

(LAUGHTER)

I challenged her on it. I challenged her. She has backed off that. She has a new one today. This one is, she's going to give out \$1,000 to everybody, to set up a 401(k). The problem is, this one costs \$5 billion more than the last one. So, I don't know—Hillary is filled with endless ways to spend...GIULIANI: ...and we're going to have to control that. (CNBC Debate, Dearborn, Michigan, October 9, 2007. Transcript at <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21221689/>)

BABY BOND SURRENDER WAS ONLY ONE OF MANY TIMES HILLARY HAS YIELDED TO REPUBLICAN OR CORPORATE BULLYING

Despite saying she favored diplomacy, Clinton yielded to pressure from President Bush and the Republicans to label Iran's Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization, giving Bush an excuse to pursue war with Iran. (Cooper, Helene. "Clinton's Iran Vote: The Fallout" *The New York Times*. October 14, 2007 (<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9502E6DE173EF937A25753C1A9619C8B63>)

After saying she supported a review of trade agreements, Hillary backed one of President Bush's top priorities, expanding Nafta to Peru, even though President Bush and the Republicans Continued to Block the Entire Democratic Agenda. (Sirota, David. "Clinton Announces Support for Nafta Expansion." *common sense*. November 8, 2007. (http://commonsense.ourfuture.org/breaking_clinton_announces_support_nafta_expansion)

Clinton was so afraid of offending the right on immigration, that during the Democratic debate on October 30, she refused to give a clear answer on whether or not she supported providing driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. (Santora, Marc. "Immigration is Fodder for Clinton Rivals," *The New York Times*. November 1, 2007. <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/01/us/politics/01immig.html>)