

New Kerry Ad: Bush's Wrong Choices have Weakened Us Here at Home

Washington, DC – Continuing to outline the clear choice in this race, the Kerry-Edwards campaign Tuesday unveiled a new television ad highlighting George W. Bush's wrong choices in Iraq. These choices have cost us \$200 billion and counting, and as a result, shortchanged America on everything from education to health care.

The ad, "Wrong Choices," is part of the campaign's effort to talk about how America is moving in the wrong direction because of the choices of George W. Bush over the last four years.

"George Bush has made the wrong choices for four years – including choosing to go it alone in Iraq without a plan to win the peace," said Kerry-Edwards campaign spokesperson Phil Singer. "His choices have cost us \$200 billion and moved America in the wrong direction. John Kerry and John Edwards will move America in a new direction with a better plan to create and keep jobs in America, lower health care costs, reduce the deficit and restore our respect in the world."

"Wrong Choices" will begin airing this week as part of the campaign \$50 million ad buy and is available for viewing at www.johnkerry.com.

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Kerry For President "Wrong choices"

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DATE: 9/7/04

George Bush. \$200 Billion for Iraq.

- **Committed to \$200 Billion through end of Year**
So far, the war has cost the United States \$144.4 billion, including \$25 billion in the administration's FY05 defense budget signed into law earlier this month. An additional \$60 billion is expected in a supplemental request after the November elections. [Center for American Progress, 8/25/2004]
- **CBO Estimates Cost of War Could Near \$400 Billion Over Next Ten Years.** "Over the ten-year period, CBO's estimate shows that these operations could involve substantial additional costs to American taxpayers for years to come – ranging from \$180 billion to almost \$400 billion under different scenarios." [Senate Budget Committee Minority Staff, Statement of Sen. Conrad, 6/25/04]
- **US Taxpayers Only Bore A Fraction Of The Cost In First Gulf War.** According to the Associated Press, "Taken together, the \$191 billion [for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and domestic military steps] is more than double the \$84 billion, in today's dollars, that

the country spent for the 1991 Persian Gulf War. American taxpayers had to bear only \$4.7 billion of that amount because of contributions and repayments by allied nations.”
[Associated Press, 5/26/04, emphasis added]

In America, lost jobs and rising health care costs. George Bush’s wrong choices have weakened us here at home.

- **According to Bureau of Labor Statistics, George Bush has lost 1.6 million jobs since becoming President**
President Bush is now certain to be the first president since the Great Depression to face re-election without creating a single job. Since Herbert Hoover we have had eleven presidents: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton. These presidents have faced wars and recessions, but not one of them has failed to create a single job. [Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2001-2004; Released 9/3/2004]
- **Health Care Premiums Increased By \$2,630 – While Bush Did Nothing.** In the United States, the total family premium for health insurance has increased by \$2,630 to \$9,068. The employee portion of the premium increased by 49 percent. [Kaiser Family Foundation]
- **New Census data shows families are falling further behind.** According to the new Census numbers: The typical family has seen its income decline \$1,511 under George Bush – declining for three straight years. 1.4 million more people lost health insurance in 2003. Under George Bush 5.2 million Americans have lost health insurance, bringing the total uninsured to 45 million. 1.3 million people fell into poverty in 2003. Under George Bush, 4.3 million people have fallen into poverty – bringing the total number to 36 million.

The Kerry Plan. Stop tax incentives for companies that ship jobs overseas.

- The Bush administration has appointed officials that outsource jobs and continue to defend the outsourcing of jobs as an important way to create jobs in America. They have never once considered ending these breaks. In fact, every time they consider any changes in international taxation, it is to give more tax breaks for companies that move jobs and investment overseas. And they have even said that we should consider paying for these new tax breaks by raising taxes on companies that export U.S. products.
- John Kerry and John Edwards have a simple plan to create jobs in America: end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas and cut taxes for companies that create jobs in America. This is a key part of their broader economic plan which includes enforcing our trade agreements, cutting the budget deficit, reining in the spiraling costs of health care, moving America towards energy independence, and investing in education and technology.
- Details at: http://www.johnkerry.com/pdf/pr_2004_0907.pdf

Lower health care premiums by up to a \$1000 per family.

- Over the last three years, family premiums have increased by more than \$2,600 and prescription drug prices have grown four times faster than inflation. These skyrocketing costs have hurt our economy and forced many families into bankruptcy.
- John Kerry and John Edwards have a plan to address soaring premiums and cut Americans a break. Their plan will lower family premiums by up to \$1,000 a year, cut waste from the system, lower the cost of prescription drugs to provide real relief to seniors, and use targeted tax cuts to extend affordable, high-quality coverage to 95 percent of Americans, including every child. And because John Kerry and John Edwards believe that everyone's health is equally important, they will provide all Americans with access to the same coverage that members of Congress give themselves.

Reduce the deficit to protect Medicare and Social Security.

- **Make Washington Live Within A Budget**
John Kerry will cut the deficit in half during his first four years in office. He will end corporate welfare as we know it, roll back the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, and impose a real cap to keep spending in check. And when John Kerry puts forward a new idea, he'll tell you how he's going to pay for it.
- Details at: <http://www.johnkerry.com/pdf/budget.pdf>

Stronger at home. Respected in the world. John Kerry

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