

DAPAC DISPATCH

Democratic Advancement Political Action Committee

Grassroots Activism for Progressive Democrats
15600 NE 8th St, B1, 931, Bellevue, WA 98008

Web: dapac.org

February, 2013
Phone: 206-382-0222

The Fiscal Cliff Settlement Raised Taxes on 77%!

The settlement driven by the Republicans in the House and Senate is a slap in the face for the poor and middle classes. The bottom line is they bear the majority of the tax increase. You might ask why, as what was heard in the media was that taxes went down on over 99% of people. What you heard is not true. Actually taxes went up for the lower 77% of the US. The truth is that federal income taxes went down for 39% of people. The remaining 60% at the bottom of the income distribution do not pay federal taxes because they make too little money. However if they work they pay payroll taxes, namely Social Security and Medicare taxes which went up by over 35%, from 5.65% to 7.65%.

For a median income family that makes around \$50,000, it means a loss in income of \$1000, or 2% of their income. For a family that makes about \$125,000 a year, it means a loss in income of \$2274. For the economy as a whole, as pointed out by Noble Prize winning Paul Krugman, it means less jobs created and a slow down in economic growth. It means that the majority of the population will have less money to spend in the economy.

The super rich got a small federal income tax increase as well. This, however, is more than counter balanced by the increase in the new tax credits they will receive on their investments. So while the super rich are left with loop holes and higher incomes, middle and lower income people, or the majority of the population, are left paying more than their fair share and must penny pinch even more, cutting spending on houses, autos, eating out and other purchases.

Gun Safety is Essential to Save Lives

Heaven is a little more crowded now with the 27 innocent victims of senseless gun violence. Twenty beautiful first graders and six brave, courageous teachers and staff trying to protect them were taken far too early from this life by another senseless act of violence perpetrated with ease by a person with far too easy access to weapons of mass destruction. Let us be clear, in a peaceful society these weapons of mass destruction have no place amongst the peaceful majority of Americans. They are, in a peaceful society, only used to kill us. They are not used by hunters for hunting wildlife. They are used by others to kill only other humans! The limiting of gun and ammunition access does not stop proponents of the Second Amendment from their right to bear arms. Indeed, it allows it but for a few legal hurdles that are needed in an attempt to protect society in general, as most laws do.

If we restrict the gun sales of automatic and semi-automatic firearms, restrict the sale of ammunition and multiple magazines, demand national background checks at all points of sale, two week waiting periods, and a national data base to prohibit sales to criminals and those with a history of mental illness, rational members of the NRA would agree with us that a safer America is more important than the immediate need for firearms that shoot bullets at a speed of hundreds per minute. America is the most "armed" country in the world with over 300,000,000 weapons in our country. The talk of more firearms making us safer just doesn't hold water.

The time has come, there have been far too many unnecessary gun deaths. The nation has reached a

tipping point. Most of the public is demanding stricter gun laws now. Did this shooter need to kill 100, 200, or all 700 people in the Sandy Hook Elementary School before we and our elected officials are moved to action? We hear people speak about our “founding fathers” and their wishes; can you imagine if you told them that in the time it took to reload a rifle in 1776, we now have rifles that can shoot off nearly a thousand rounds in that same time. It would stagger their minds that anyone would need that kind of firepower in a civil society, particularly in a peaceful, civil society not at war with itself to require a gun and ammunition of that magnitude available to fulfill the “right to bear arms”?

Please say a prayer for all the angels in heaven tonight and pray that the senseless gun killing could be stopped but, at the very least, reduced and that we as a country move forward to elect politicians who reflect the same moral compass to pass laws that protect all of society from the demands of some for access of guns and ammunition at any cost. DAPAC and its candidates believe the cost of access to automatic and semiautomatic weapons, multiple magazines, the lack of a national gun licensing and registration database along with extensive universal background checks is too great a cost to our society. DAPAC will stand strong against the forces that weigh their needs of weapons higher than the safety of society

Climate Challenges of 2012

2012 was the hottest year on record in the United States, with an average temperature of 55.3 degrees; a full degree warmer than the previous record and 3.2 degrees warmer than the average temperature. Each of the contiguous lower 48 states had temperatures that were above the average. Much of

the country also experienced drought conditions, about 61% of the contiguous states having moderate to exceptional drought conditions. The high temperatures and low perspiration resulted in loss of many crops, such as corn, giving rise in food and animal feed prices. It created a loss of \$35 billion in just the Midwest. The drought also created record low water levels in the Great Lakes and Mississippi River, effecting trade and commerce down the river.

Global temperatures were at record high this year as well. 2012 global temperatures were the 10th highest since recording started in 1880; the last 12 years have all been in the top 15 hottest years. In Australia, the bureau of meteorology came up with two new colors to represent high temperatures they expect to see for their weather maps. The world meteorology organization also saw record amounts of Arctic ice melt. Less Arctic ice means that the Arctic becomes warmer and the cold weather does not stay at the Poles. This can lead to colder weather and more extreme weather across the globe.

These issues of extreme and abnormal weather will continue and worsen unless more is done about global warming. There needs to be more political change on climate control, less fossil fuel burning, and more green energy. It is going to take major change in Washington to deal with climate change. Germany has done it, by creating policies to encourage people to put solar panels on the roofs of homes. Now over 60% of the energy used in homes is produced by these solar panels. It can be done here, in addition many other countries are in front of the United States. Without the political will to change the burning of fossil fuel, the economy will increasingly suffer even greater economic losses.

Paid for and authorized by the Democratic Advancement PAC (DAPAC). Contributions will be used in connection with federal elections and they are subject to the limits and prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act. Federal law requires us to report the name address, occupation and employer for each individual whose contribution aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Corporate and non-citizen contributions are prohibited. Contributions are not tax deductible.