

Ten months ago, President Obama signed a \$787 billion so-called “stimulus” bill into law that had been rammed through the House without a single Republican vote. Although the Administration has lauded the stimulus as an agent for saving and creating jobs, the evidence has proved otherwise. Rather, the stimulus has stymied private sector growth, has increased the size and scope of the government, and has been plagued by waste.

Prior to the enactment of the Democrat Stimulus Package, the President claimed it would save or create three and a half million jobs over the next two years, 90 percent of which were to be in the private sector, and also promised that the unemployment rate would not go above 8 percent. Since then, the Administration asserts that it has created or saved nearly 650,000 jobs.

However, recent reports have found that the Administration has inflated its statistics, often counting salary increases as a job “saved” and over-calculating actual jobs saved or created. For example, a recent study found the Administration claimed it saved over 900 jobs at a community organization when only 500 people actually work there.

In reality, the nearly trillion dollar stimulus has created 30,000 confirmed jobs, of which are overwhelmingly government jobs, and at the same time the private economy has lost well over three million jobs. As a matter of fact, several government agencies have made hires just to oversee the massive stimulus spending.

All and all, since the enactment of the so-called stimulus, the national unemployment rate has soared to a 26-year high of 10.2 percent and the rate of underemployment is estimated to be at 17.5 percent, accounting for the unemployed and those who are unable to find adequate work. In California alone, the unemployment rate has grown from 10.6 percent to a staggering 12.2 percent.. What is more, the current House government-run health care bill is expected to kill another 5.5 million jobs as a result of taxes on businesses that cannot afford to provide health insurance coverage.

In addition to these alarming statistics, news reports have found that all too often stimulus funds have been wasted on questionable projects. Just to name a few, \$3.4 million has been spent to build an “eco-passage” for turtles under a highway in Florida; \$1.5 million has been allocated to produce signs bearing a “recovery emblem” for each project approved under the stimulus; and \$1.3 million has been spent on government arts jobs in Maine, including \$30,000 for basket makers, \$20,000 for storytelling and \$12,500 for a music festival. Job creation? I don’t think so.

Unfortunately, rather than focusing on the needs of the American people, the Administration and Congressional Democrats have been bent on growing the scope of the federal bureaucracy and subsidizing government jobs in order to fund pet projects and special interests. It is time to put an end to this gross misuse of taxpayer dollars and enact policies that lead to immediate and long-term economic growth and job creation.

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