



Romney Can't Walk Back His Support for Romney-Ryan Budget

Today, before Mitt Romney even took the stage to introduce his new running mate, his adviser Bay Buchanan told [NBC News](#) that Romney's budget plans are "not an embrace, line by line, of the Ryan plan. Mitt Romney has his own plan." And Romney campaign internal talking points posted by [CNN](#) this morning showed he plans to make this walk-back official.

That's strange, since Romney has strongly endorsed the Romney-Ryan Budget throughout his campaign – turning time and time again to the same tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans on the backs of middle-class families as Paul Ryan has championed in Congress. The Romney-Ryan Budget would turn Medicare into a voucher program, make severe cuts to programs like education that would hamper job creation, and repeal health care reform and key protections in Wall Street reform – all to pay for massive tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires.

Paul Ryan is the perfect pick to implement Mitt Romney's agenda, since they are one and the same: more budget-busting tax cuts for the wealthy no matter the expense for the middle class or the consequences for our economy.

ROMNEY-RYAN BUDGET: TAX CUTS FOR THE TOP, DEEP CUTS FOR THE MIDDLE-CLASS

	<u>RYAN</u>	<u>ROMNEY</u>
Privatizes Medicare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES. Authored the voucher plan that makes a typical senior pay \$6,350 more a year. • Charges seniors more for prescription drugs and preventive care as the result of repealing health care reform. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES. Supports the Ryan voucher plan that makes a typical senior pay \$6,350 more a year. • Charges seniors more for prescription drugs and preventive care. • Increases payments to insurance companies by \$100 billion and repeals other reforms, accelerating the exhaustion of the Medicare trust fund to 2016.

<p>Deep Cuts to Investments in Our Future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES. Deep cuts in middle class investments. If applied across-the-board, these cuts would mean cutting 200,000 kids a year from Head Start, cutting Pell Grant scholarships for 10 million students, and cutting funding for Veterans’ Affairs by 19 percent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES. Has expressed support for deep cuts in domestic spending in the Ryan plan. If applied across-the-board, these cuts would mean cutting 200,000 kids a year from Head Start, cutting Pell Grant scholarships for 10 million students, and cutting funding for Veterans’ Affairs by 19 percent. • Holding true to his promise to balance the budget would require even deeper cuts to all domestic spending than the House plan proposes.
<p>Huge Tax Cuts for the Wealthy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES. Extends all of the Bush tax cuts. • Provides \$5 trillion more in tax cuts weighted toward the wealthy paid for by closing unspecified tax deductions – which would require raising taxes on middle-class families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES. Extends all of the Bush tax cuts. • Provides \$5 trillion more in tax cuts weighted toward the wealthy paid for by closing unspecified tax deductions – which would require raising taxes on middle-class families.
<p>Deep Cuts in Medicaid and Health Coverage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES. Repeals health reform and cuts more than \$1 trillion from Medicaid over a decade, denying health care for close to 60 million people, including low-income children, pregnant women, nursing home patients, and people with disabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES. Repeals health reform and cuts more than \$1 trillion from Medicaid over a decade, denying health care for close to 60 million people, including low-income children, pregnant women, nursing home patients, and people with disabilities.
<p>Repeals Key Protections in Wall Street Reform</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES. Rolls back key protections in Wall Street Reform designed to prevent future financial crises and end the era of “too big to fail.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES. Repeals all of Wall Street Reform, even though it creates no budget savings.

ROMNEY’S RECORD OF SUPPORT FOR THE RYAN BUDGET

ROMNEY HAILED THE RYAN BUDGET PLAN SAYING “I APPLAUD IT. IT’S AN EXCELLENT PIECE OF WORK”

Politico Headline: “Romney Endorses Ryan budget.” [Politico, [3/20/12](#)]

Romney: “I’m Very Supportive Of The Ryan Budget Plan” – “I Applaud It. It’s An Excellent Piece Of Work And Very Much Needed.” Romney: “I’m very supportive of the Ryan budget plan. It’s a bold and exciting effort on his part and on the part of the Republicans and it’s very much consistent with what I put out earlier. I think it’s amazing that we have a president who three and a half years in still hasn’t put a

proposal out that deals with entitlements. This president's dealing with entitlement reform -- excuse me -- this budget deals with entitlement reform, tax policy, which as you know is very similar to the one that I put out and efforts to reign in excessive spending. I applaud it. It's an excellent piece of work and very much needed." [Politico, [3/20/12](#)]

Romney: "I Think It'd Be Marvelous If The Senate Were To Pick Up Paul Ryan's Budget And To Adopt It And Pass It Along To The President." [Associated Press, 4/3/12]

Romney: Ryan Budget Plan Is "Bold And Exciting" And "Excellent." Romney: "I'm very supportive of the Ryan budget plan. It's a bold and exciting effort on his part and on the part of the Republicans and it's very much consistent with what I put out earlier. ... I applaud it. It's an excellent piece of work and very much needed." [Politico, [3/20/12](#)]

ROMNEY SAID HE WORKED IN COORDINATION WITH REP. PAUL RYAN ON THEIR PLANS

Romney: "Paul Ryan And I Have Been Working Together Over Some Months To Talk About Our Mutual Plans And We're On The Same Page." [Vicki McKenna Show, WIBA, 3/21/12]

Romney: "Well I Have The Highest Respect For Paul And Appreciate The Fact That He Has Been Generous In Spending Time With Me And With My Staff. His Team Has Met With My Team. We've Talked About Everything From Budgets To Medicare Reforms To Taxation." [Mark Belling Show, WISN (Milwaukee, WI), 3/28/12]

Romney On Ryan's Plan: "We Have Been Working, Paul Ryan And I Have Over The Last Several Months, Collaborating A Bit On Plans For A Tax Policy And Spending As Well As Medicare Reform, So It's Not A Surprise That We're As Close As We Are." When asked by Mark Belling if he endorsed the latest Ryan plan, Romney said: "You know, I have already said that I'm supportive of the plan he put forward. I am -- I highly praise what he has done. I think it's courageous. And is the, a very important step. He is taking on not only the need to reform entitlements but the need to cut federal spending, and also the need to put in place a pro-growth tax plan. His proposals and the ones I've outlined in my campaign are very much on the same page. We have been working, Paul Ryan and I have over the last several months, collaborating a bit on plans for a tax policy and spending as well as Medicare reform, so it's not a surprise that we're as close as we are." [Mark Belling, WISN (Milwaukee, WI), 3/21/12]

Romney Praised The Ryan Budget Passed By The House GOP Which Shared "The Same Path Forward" As His Own Plan: "Pro-Growth Tax Cuts, Getting Federal Spending Under Control, And Strengthening Entitlement Programs For Future Generations." Romney statement on the vote on the Ryan budget passed by the U.S. House: "We are making progress. The House of Representatives has unanimously rejected President Obama's vision of an America with higher taxes, unlimited spending, and expansive government. Owing in no small part to the leadership of Paul Ryan, it has put conservative fiscal principles into action and passed a bold budget that directly addresses the drivers of our nation's spending crisis. The House budget and my own plan share the same path forward: pro-growth tax cuts, getting federal spending under control, and strengthening entitlement programs for future generations. I look forward to working with Congress to achieve fiscal discipline and passing a budget that moves us toward a simpler, smarter, and smaller federal government." [Romney For President, [3/29/12](#)]

REP. RYAN SAID ROMNEY WOULD ENACT HIS BUDGET

Headline: "Ryan: Romney Will Enact My Budget" [National Journal, [3/25/12](#)]

Rep. Paul Ryan Said He Expected Romney Would Enact The House Republican Budget. "House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said he expects Mitt Romney will enact his recently-released budget if the former Massachusetts becomes president." [National Journal, [3/25/12](#)]

Rep. Paul Ryan Was Convinced If Romney Were President, Romney Would Enact Ryan's Budget.

O'DONNELL: "Mitt Romney says he supports your plan. Are you convinced he's a fiscal conservative?"

RYAN: "Absolutely." O'DONNELL: "And are you convinced, if he were president, that he would enact your budget?" RYAN: "Yeah, I think he -- I'm not expecting everybody to enact every little piece of this.

But, yes. He and the other candidates running for president have embraced these kinds of reforms because we know it's the best way to save and strengthen the Medicare guarantee, save Medicaid --"

O'DONNELL: "If Mitt Romney became president of the United States, you're convinced he would follow through with a lot of the reductions that you make in this --" RYAN: "Yes." O'DONNELL: "--in this plan?"

RYAN: "Yes." [Face The Nation, CBS, 3/25/12]

ROMNEY HAD MADE PASSING AND SIGNING REP. PAUL RYAN'S 2011 PLAN A PART OF HIS OWN ECONOMIC PLAN

Romney Said "Yes" He Would Sign The Ryan Plan That Would Have Restructured Medicare. "On health care, Romney responded "yes" when asked if he would sign the plan written by Rep. Paul Ryan that would restructure Medicare if it reached his desk as President, but quickly added that he would be offering his own plan." [ABC News, [6/2/11](#)]

Romney's Economic Plan: "Pass The House Republican Budget Proposal." [Romney Press Release, "Cut The Spending," 11/4/11]

Romney Said He Hoped The Ryan Plan Is Introduced As A Bill On Day One Of His Presidency. Romney "I hope I get to file that bill day one. It may be that Paul Ryan is able to get that under way and completed before then. Probably not, but I sure hope so." [Romney Event at Missouri Valley Steel in Sioux City, 12/16/11]