



Whose interests will the super committee members represent?

Fact Sheet: Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI-4)

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The deal to raise the debt ceiling set up a bipartisan “super committee” comprised of six members of the House and six members of the Senate tasked with finding \$1.2 trillion to \$1.5 trillion in additional budget savings over the next 10 years. Everything from raising taxes to cutting Social Security and Medicaid will be on the table.

A “cuts only” approach to deficit reduction, pursued thus far by Rep. Camp, would force painful cuts in effective programs that strengthen the middle class and protect the most vulnerable, while leaving tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans and most profitable corporations off the table. But how would such an approach affect Rep. Camp’s own constituents?

Families in Rep. Camp’s district, after all, are having a hard time making ends meet:

- Nearly one in five 4th District residents is living in poverty and one in four families is dealing with hunger and fear of not being able to feed their children.
- Nearly half of all 4th District renters are paying more than they should for rent and utilities.
- More than one out of every eight 4th District residents is living without health insurance.

Fortunately, social insurance and safety net programs have been able to help families in their time of need:

- Three in ten 4th District residents receive health care partially funded by the federal government.¹
- Food stamps/SNAP provided critical nutrition assistance to more than 46,000 households in the district.
- Free and reduced-price lunch serves more than one in seven hungry children in the 4th District so they are better prepared to succeed in school.²

Income inequality in Rep. Camp’s state is stark:

- For every one person who earned \$200,000 or more, 36 individuals earned \$50,000 or less. These higher-income earners represent 2 percent of all state residents.
- Individuals earning \$200,000 or more—2 percent of the state’s residents—claimed 92 percent of the capital gains tax breaks. Their tax liability was reduced by \$2.5 billion.
- Special tax breaks on dividend earnings decreased the taxes paid by top wealthiest state residents by \$1.4 billion.

We encourage Rep. Camp to consider these statistics for his district and pursue an agenda that protects the most vulnerable and asks wealthy individuals and corporations to pay their fair share.

The hard facts for the 4th Congressional District

Families in the 4th Congressional District are struggling:

- Poverty rate: 17.5 percent
- Number of people getting by on low incomes:³ 251,238
- Percentage of families struggling with hunger:⁴ 25 percent
- Number of people without health insurance: 86,894
- Percentage of renters spending more than 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities: 49.6 percent

Michigan residents lack access to quality jobs:

9.9 million Michigan residents make up 3.8 million households

- Unemployment rate: 11.2 percent
- Construction jobs lost since August 2008: 18,800
- Manufacturing jobs lost since August 2008: 68,000
- Minimum wage worker's full-time annual income compared to poverty level for a family of three: 80.8 percent
- Median hourly wage without a college education: \$15.25
- Training program participants:⁵ 853,995
- Total earned income tax credit dollars flowing to the state: \$1.8 billion
- Number of people benefiting from the earned income tax credit: 833,909

Programs help keep constituents in the district afloat and provide greater opportunity:

689,687 residents make up 268,277 households

- Households receiving food stamps/SNAP in the past 12 months: 46,190
- Households receiving Social Security Income: 94,408
- Households receiving Supplemental Security Income: 15,298
- Medicare recipients: 100,626
- Medicaid recipients: 120,979
- District 4 Pell Grant recipients: 24,430
- Children enrolled in federal free and reduced-price lunch program:⁶ 20,372

Children in the 4th Congressional District are facing major challenges:

Total number of children in the 4th District: 144,847 with 36,553 children under 5

- Poverty rate for children under age 5: 26.7 percent
- Number of students (est.) enrolled in the Head Start Program:⁷ 1,683
- Teen unemployment rate: 68 percent

Federal funding provides educational opportunity for Michigan families:

- One-year cost of public four-year college for in-state residents: \$10,170
- Children eligible to receive special education services under the federal IDEA program:⁸ 7,853

Sources

Data on population, poverty, health insurance, housing, SNAP, Social Security, SSI, and Head Start is from the 2010 American Community Survey, available at <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>, and data on Medicaid and Medicare is from the 2009 American Community Survey, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.

2007 data on dual eligibles in the state's Medicare and Medicaid Programs, used to calculate the percentage of district residents receiving health care partially subsidized by the federal government, are from the Kaiser Family Foundation, available at <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/>.

2010 food hardship data are from the Food Research and Action Center analysis of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. Food and Research Action Center, "Food Hardship in America 2010" (2011), available at http://frac.org/pdf/aug2011_food_hardship_report_children.pdf.

The median hourly wage without an education is from Center for American Progress analysis of CEPR Current Population Survey ORG data.

Data on EITC and inequality is from 2009 and is from the Internal Revenue Service.

Information on Pell Grants is from unpublished 2011 data from the Department of Education.

The teen unemployment rate is from Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2011 Kids Count, available at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>.

Free and reduced-price lunch numbers, and number of total students, come from the Federal Education Budget Project at the New America Foundation, available at <http://febp.newamerica.net/>.

IDEA numbers come from the National Center for Education Statistics, available at <http://nces.ed.gov/>.

Data on state unemployment rates, construction jobs, and manufacturing jobs comes from the 2011 Bureau of Labor Statistics's local area unemployment statistics and current employment statistics, or CES, data releases, available at <http://www.bls.gov/>.

The cost of four-year public education is from The College Board, "Trends in College Pricing" (2010), available at http://trends.collegeboard.org/downloads/College_Pricing_2010.pdf.

Data on the minimum wage is from the U.S. Department of Labor, available at <http://www.dol.gov/>.

Endnotes

- 1 To calculate this, we added the number of Medicare and Medicaid enrollees in the district in 2009. We then estimated the number of dual eligibles in the district using the percentage of dual eligibles in the Medicare and Medicaid programs in the state as a basis. Because 2009 data on the number of dual eligibles are not publicly available, we applied the 2007 number of dual eligibles to the data for an estimate. We subtracted the estimated number of dual eligibles from the total number of Medicare and Medicaid enrollees then divided that sum by the district's total population.
- 2 To estimate this figure, we divided the number of children receiving free and reduced lunch by the total number of school-age children (age 5–19) in the district.
- 3 Households living below 200 percent of the federal poverty line, or about \$44,500 for a family of four in 2010.
- 4 Families indicating that, in the last 12 months, they haven't had enough money to buy food for themselves or their families, are experiencing food hardship.
- 5 Workforce Investment Act training program participants; 2009 data from the U.S. Department of Labor.
- 6 We have aggregated the totals from all school districts that lie entirely in this member's congressional district. We have excluded numbers from any school districts whose boundaries are split between this member and another member.
- 7 We estimated the number of Head Start participants using 2010 American Community Survey data. Their methodology for this estimation can be found in: Lynda Laughlin and Jessica Davis, "Who's in Head Start? Estimating Head Start Enrollment with the ACS, CPS, and SIPP" Working Paper 2011-15 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011), available at http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/child/Who's%20in%20Head%20Start_WP2011_15.pdf.
- 8 We have aggregated the totals from all school districts that lie entirely in this member's congressional district. We have excluded numbers from any school districts whose boundaries are split between this member and another member.