



## **AMERICA UNDER BUSH: THE STATE OF COLORADO'S WORKING FAMILIES**

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- 60,330 More Colorado Workers Have Become Unemployed Since Bush Took Office.
- 16,300 Of Colorado Workers Have Lost Their Unemployment Benefits Since January 2004.
- 35,400 Colorado Manufacturing Jobs Lost Since Bush Took Office.
- 46 Percent Of Colorado Taxpayers Will Receive Less Than \$100 From Latest Bush Tax Cut In 2004.
- Colorado Families Face Rising Share Of National Debt Burden Nearly \$22,000 Over Next Six Years.
- 151,000 Colorado Children Abandoned By Bush, Left Out Of Child Tax Credit.
- 720,000 Colorado Residents Have No Health Insurance.
- 60,700 Colorado Seniors Worse Off Under Bush Medicare Prescription Plan.

**JOBS AND ECONOMY:  
Bush Does Nothing While Jobs Are Lost,  
Salaries Stagnate, And Poverty Soars**

**Nationwide: Businesses Have Lost 2.6 Million Jobs; Unemployment At 5.7 Percent—Up 36 Percent Since Bush Took Office.** [Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov>]

- **Colorado Fact: 104,400 Jobs Lost; Unemployment At 4.9 Percent —Up 88 Percent Since Bush Took Office.** [Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov>]
- **Colorado Fact: 16,300 Jobless Colorado Workers Have Lost Their Unemployment Benefits Since January 2004.** 16,300 Colorado workers have been dropped from unemployment insurance because Bush and the Republican Congress have refused to extend them. [CBPP, 3/25/04, [www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)]

**Nationally, Median Wages are Stagnant.** In 2003, median weekly wages grew slower than the rate of inflation, meaning that real value of workers paychecks actually declined. [EPI, 4/12/04, [www.epinet.org](http://www.epinet.org)]

**Nationally, Nearly 2.8 Million Manufacturing Jobs Lost Under Bush, And Account For 95 Percent of All Job Loss.** [Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov>]

- **Colorado Fact: 35,400 Manufacturing Jobs Have Been Lost Under Bush.** [Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov>]

**Nationally, 3.5 Million More Americans Have Fallen Into Poverty Under Bush—Poverty Rate Up To 12.1 Percent** [Census Bureau, Poverty in the United States: 2002, Table 4, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html>]

- **Colorado Fact: Colorado Poverty Rate At 9.2 Percent.** [Census Bureau, Poverty in the United States: 2002, Table 4, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html>]

**TAXES:  
Bush Squandered Surplus, Increasing Debt Burden, Gave Tax Breaks To Rich**

**Bush Squandered Trillions In Three Years: Inherited \$5.6 Trillion Surplus, Has Now Created \$5.2 Trillion Deficit.** In August 2003, the Congressional Budget Office projected federal deficits “as far as the eye can see.” [CBO, 8/03; [OMB Mid-Session Review](#), 7/15/03; CBPP, 9/29/03, 1/28/04; [Los Angeles Times](#), 8/29/03]

- **Colorado Fact: Small Benefits of Bush Tax Cut Dwarfed by Rising Debt Burden For Colorado’s Middle Income Families; Colorado Taxpayers Face \$21,580 Average Increased Debt Burden.** [CTJ Fact Sheet, 9/23/03]
- **Colorado Fact: Over 1 Million Colorado Taxpayers Get Less Than \$100 in 2004; Richest 1% Would Get \$46,500.** [CTJ Fact Sheet, 11/19/03, <http://www.ctj.org>]
- **Colorado Fact: 151,000 Children in Colorado Are Left Out of Bush Child Tax Credit Provision.** [[New York Times](#), 5/29/03; CBPP Fact Sheet, <http://www.cbpp.org/5-28-03tax3.htm>; CTJ Fact Sheet, 6/3/03]

**HEALTH CARE:**

**In the Face of Rising Health Care Costs and Uninsured, Bush Offers Prescription Drug Plan That Actually Hurts Seniors**

**Nationally, One in Nine Have No Health Insurance Under Bush.** [Census Bureau, Historical Health Insurance Tables, Table HI06, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins.html>]

- **Colorado Fact: 720,000 Colorado Residents (16.1 Percent) Have No Health Insurance.** [Census Bureau, Historical Health Insurance Tables, Table HI06, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins.html>]
- **Colorado Fact: 1,243,000 Colorado Residents Were Without Insurance At Some Point During 2001-2002.** [Families USA, Going Without Insurance, March 2003]

**Nationally, Many Seniors Worse Off Under Bush Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.** The Medicare bill that President Bush signed in November 2003 includes limited prescription drug coverage but protects the interests of drug companies by failing to include measures to bring down the cost of prescriptions. The bill has been described as a “big win” for the drug industry, and nationwide, many seniors are worse off under the plan. [Wall Street Journal, 11/17/03; Senate HELP Committee Minority Staff, “National and State Impacts of the Medicare Prescription Drug Conference Proposal,” 11/03, emphasis added]

- **Colorado Fact: Colorado Seniors Hurt By Bush Medicare Plan.**
  - Over 31,000 Colorado Medicare beneficiaries will lose their employer-based retiree health benefits.
  - Nearly 61,000 seniors will pay more for the prescription drugs they need. [Senate HELP Committee Minority Staff, “National and Colorado Impacts of the Medicare Prescription Drug Conference Proposal,” 11/03]

**EDUCATION:**

**Bush Ignores Skyrocketing Tuition, And Underfunds His Own Education Reform Plan**

**Nationally, College Tuition Skyrocketing.** Public universities in 49 of 50 states have increased tuition to as much as 39 percent, averaging 14 percent increases across the country. [Associated Press, 8/25/03; College Board, 10/21/03]

**Bush Consistently Shortchanged Higher Education And Froze Pell Grant Maximum Awards, Leaving Students And Parents To Face Tuition Increases.** [House Budget Committee Minority Staff, 4/30/03, 2/7/03; House Appropriations Committee Minority Staff, 2/3/03, [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)]

**New Bush Budget Underfunds “No Child Left Behind” by \$9.4 Billion.** [President’s FY 2005 Budget, [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)]

- **Colorado Fact: Colorado Will Face \$65,105,000 in Unfunded No Child Left Behind Mandates Under New Bush Budget.** [National Conference of State Legislatures, Mandate Monitor, March 2004]
- **Colorado Fact: Colorado Will Face \$124,064,000 in Unfunded Special Education Mandates Under New Bush Budget.** [National Conference of State Legislatures, Mandate Monitor, March 2004]

**MILITARY AND VETERANS:**

**Despite Promises, Bush Abandons Struggling Veterans And Military Families**

**Bush's 2004 Budget Cut \$200 Million From Impact Aid Program, Denying Education Funds For Children In Military Families.** [[New York Times](#), 8/22/00; House Appropriations Committee, Minority Staff, 6/17/03, 6/16/03; [Washington Post](#), 6/17/03]

➤ **Colorado Fact: Over 437,000 Veterans In Colorado Affected By Bush Policies.** [Department of Veterans Affairs]

**Bush Proposed Doubling Costs of Prescription Drugs for Veterans.** In 2003, Bush proposed adding a \$250 enrollment fee and nearly doubling prescription drug costs for veterans earning over \$24,000. [Reuters, 7/14/03; [Washington Post](#), 7/22/03]

**IMMIGRATION:**

**Bush Plan Virtually Guarantees Workers Will Be Deported**

**Bush Plan Virtually Guarantees The Deportation Of Millions Of Working Immigrants, Who Must Return Home When Their Visas Expire.** [White House Press Briefing, 1/7/04; National Council of La Raza, 1/7/04; [New York Times](#), 1/8/04; CNN, 1/7/04]

**Bush Would Leave Millions of Workers Stuck in Current System Where Residency Is Nearly Impossible.** [White House Press Briefing, 1/7/04; [New York Times](#), 1/8/04]

**Only 5,000 Green Cards Allotted for Unskilled Workers Every Year.** Bush claims that workers under the program would have the opportunity to apply for residency under current law, but currently only 5,000 green cards are given to unskilled workers each year. In addition, the average wait for a green card for an unskilled employee is 15 years. [[AP](#), 1/7/04; White House Background Briefing, 1/6/04]

**Even If Green Card Numbers Increased, Many Current Workers Would Never Be Eligible.** Only 140,000 total green cards are available each year for employment-based immigration. Even if that number was doubled and only guest workers were allowed to apply, it would take over 30 years for each of the currently estimated 8 million undocumented workers to become eligible for permanent residency. [[AP](#), 1/7/04; White House Background Briefing, 1/6/04]

**ENVIRONMENT:**

**Bush Helped Industry By Weakening Rules And Oversight**

➤ **Loosening Rules**

- Under Bush, violation notices against polluters dropped 35 percent from 2002 through the first 10 months of 2003. [[Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 12/9/03]
- Bush opened 9 million acres of national forest to logging and mining. [[Seattle Post Intelligencer](#), 12/24/03]
- Bush tried to allow 20,000 facilities nationwide to increase pollution. [[Baltimore Sun](#), 8/28/03; [Los Angeles Times](#), 8/28/03, 11/6/03]

➤ **Weakening Oversight**

- In his first budget Bush cut \$10 million from EPA enforcement programs. [[Washington Post](#), 4/10/01]

- Bush cut the EPA budget by \$500 million between 2003 and 2004. [Democratic Staff, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2/26/03]
- Completed Superfund cleanups have decreased every year under Bush. Superfund is a trust fund that polluting corporations pay into to help clean contaminated sites. The GOP Congress refused to re-authorize funding for Superfund, so the program is slowly depleting. [Boston Globe, 1/9/04]

**HOMELAND SECURITY:**  
**Bush Ignoring Dangerous Security Concerns**

**Bush is Letting Many Homeland Security Needs Fall Through the Cracks.** More than two years after the 9/11 attacks, serious gaps exist in the Bush administration's attempts to defend America against terrorism:

- **Emergency Response to Public Health Threats:** The Department of Homeland Security is cutting by 80 percent (\$40 million) of funds for its program to ready local emergency responses to public health crises. The program, the Metropolitan Medical Response System run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, plays a "significant role in [federal] mass casualty planning." [CQ, 1/2/04]
- **Cargo Containers:** Only 2% of the 7 million cargo containers arriving at the nation's 361 commercial ports each year are screened. [Sarasota Herald-Tribune, 7/10/03; Portland Press Herald, 7/5/03]
- **Airline Screeners:** The Transportation Security Administration's airport screening force will be cut by 6,000 screeners, about 11%, because GOP says TSA "over hired." [AP, 4/30/03]
- **Air Cargo:** On average, half of a plane's hull on any passenger flight is filled with cargo, and 22 percent of the nation's air cargo travels on passenger flights, yet most air cargo traveling by passenger plane remains unscreened, with only "random checks" being performed by TSA officials. Part of the reason is pressure from passenger air carriers, who, according to Newsday, "worry that screening their cargo would add such a delay that the \$4-billion-a-year business would dry up." [The Hill, 4/30/03; Newsday, 9/8/03]
- **Chemical Plants:** The Government Accounting Office report found that even though US chemical facilities were "attractive targets for terrorists," there was no government oversight to assure that plants are safe from terrorist attack. In addition, Bush has declined to push for accountability from chemical companies. According to the Richmond Times Dispatch, the EPA "backed down" from using its regulatory power to oversee plant security "after the industry balked." [GAO, Voluntary Initiatives Are Under Way at Chemical Facilities, but the Extent of Security Preparedness Is Unknown, March 2003; Richmond Times Dispatch, 3/23/03]
- **Police Equipment:** The non-partisan Council on Foreign Relations criticized homeland security preparedness in a 2003 report, stating, "Many police departments lack adequate detection and personal protective equipment and training for responding to chemical, biological, or radiological incidents." [Independent Task Force, Council on Foreign Relations, 7/29/03]
- **Emergency Responders:** The non-partisan Council on Foreign Relations criticized homeland security preparedness in a 2003 report, stating, "Most cities do not have the necessary equipment to determine what kind of hazardous materials emergency responders may be facing." [Independent Task Force, Council on Foreign Relations, 7/29/03]

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