

# Hillary Clinton on Issues Important to Working People

## TRADE

**Clinton Opposed the Trans-Pacific Partnership When It Failed to “Create Good Jobs, Raise Wages.”** According to a New York Times op-ed, Hillary Clinton wrote: “...we have to set a high bar for any new trade agreements, and only support them if they will create good jobs, raise wages and advance our national security. I opposed the Trans-Pacific Partnership when it failed to meet those tests, and would oppose future agreements if they failed to meet that bar.” [New York Times, [2/22/16](#)]

**Clinton Called for Fundamental Rethinking of How America Approaches Trade Deals.** In response to the Pennsylvania Fair Trade Coalition’s Questionnaire, Clinton wrote, “I’m not interested in tinkering around the margins of our trade policy. I think we need a fundamental rethink of how we approach trade deals going forward—and it can’t just be about the words of the deal. I believe it is critical that we address health and environmental regulations and workers’ rights and wages in our trade agreements. Multilateral trade agreements can be used to raise global trade standards. And we can bring others along in having higher labor, environmental and other standards.” [Pennsylvania Fair Trade Coalition, [4/18/16](#)]

**Clinton’s Manufacturing Plan Would Crack Down on Currency Manipulation, Which Puts American Manufacturers at a Disadvantage.** “The plan also includes cracking down on currency manipulation and unfair trade practices. Manufacturers in the United States in raw materials and industries like steel say that currency manipulation in China puts their businesses at a disadvantage in international markets, and Clinton has said before the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal falls short of addressing currency manipulation.” [Time, [12/8/15](#)]

**Clinton Will Review All U.S. Trade Agreements Already on the Books, Including NAFTA.** According to the Clinton website, “Hillary has said for almost a decade that we need to renegotiate NAFTA, and she still believes that today. And she would review all of our trade agreements with the same scrutiny.” [Candidate release, [4/14/16](#)]

## RAISING WAGES

**Clinton Called for Raising the Minimum Wage, Making Childcare More Affordable.** Fortune reported: “Clinton proposed a mix of stand-by Democratic policies—raising the minimum wage, making childcare more affordable, and ending tax breaks for financiers, to name a few—plans

she acknowledged as ‘time-tested and more than a little battle-scarred.’ But she also pledged to confront corporate short-termism, a phenomenon she said is sapping investments in research, infrastructure and training while concentrating returns among the super wealthy.” [Fortune, [7/13/15](#)]

**Clinton Called for “Fair Scheduling, Paid Leave and Earned Sick Days.”** The New York Times reported: “[T]he economic vision Mrs. Clinton presented on Monday placed a strong emphasis on the issues she has long advocated, including helping women in the work force by advancing ‘fair scheduling, paid leave and earned sick days’; providing better access to early childhood education; and addressing rising health care costs. ‘I’m well aware that for far too long, these challenges have been dismissed by some as ‘women’s issues,’ she said. ‘Well, those days are over.’” [New York Times, [7/13/15](#)]

**Clinton Outlined an “Economic Agenda Intended to Lift Middle-Class Wages, Expand Social Services, and Increase Taxes on the Wealthiest Americans.”** The New York Times reported: “In the most comprehensive policy speech of her presidential campaign, Hillary Rodham Clinton on Monday presented her vision of a ‘growth and fairness economy,’ an economic agenda intended to lift middle-class wages, expand social services, and increase taxes on the wealthiest Americans to combat a widening gap between rich and poor. Mrs. Clinton said ‘the defining economic challenge of our time’ is raising incomes for the vast majority of Americans whose wages have remained virtually stagnant for 15 years as the costs of housing, college, child care and health care have soared. ‘We must raise incomes for hard-working Americans so they can afford a middle-class life,’ Mrs. Clinton said. ‘That will be my mission from the first day I’m president to the last.’” [New York Times, [7/13/15](#)]

**In Speech, Clinton Focused on “Efforts to Close the Wage Gap.”** The Boston Globe reported: “But she kept her main focus on greater access to paid family leave and efforts to close the wage gap, stressing that women’s rights issues have an echoing effect on the overall economy. ‘If you can’t afford to go to work or find a safe place to leave your kids, you’re not going to have the kind of economic opportunity you deserve. That’s something that all Americans should care about,’ Clinton said. ‘Because when women can fully participate in the workforce, our economy grows and benefits.’” [Boston Globe, [9/7/15](#)]

## **RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND NEGOTIATE COLLECTIVELY**

**Clinton Praised the Defeat of “Right-to-Work” Legislation in Missouri.** According to the Washington Examiner, “Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton praised the Missouri state legislature for rejecting a state right-to-work bill Wednesday, saying she was ‘disturbed’ by the effort to weaken union power in the state.” [Washington Examiner, [9/16/15](#)]

**Clinton: Right-to-Work Legislation “Bad for America.”** According to the Washington Examiner, Hillary Clinton said, “A number of states, bankrolled by powerful corporate interests,

have passed these laws in recent years. Their name is misleading. Instead of respecting workers or protecting their rights, ‘right to work’ laws depress wages and benefits, undercut unions, and concentrate power in the hands of corporations and their allies. They’re bad for workers, bad for the economy, and bad for America.” [Washington Examiner, [9/16/15](#)]

**Clinton: “I Will Stand with the United Auto Workers in Protecting Workers’ Fundamental Right to Organize and Bargain Collectively.”** According to Clinton’s press release, she said, “As President, I will stand with the United Auto Workers in protecting workers’ fundamental right to organize and bargain collectively, including in their fight to organize the VW plant in Chattanooga. And we need to make sure that the jobs of the future, including in clean energy and clean transportation, are good union jobs that can’t be outsourced. If I am fortunate enough to be elected President, organized labor will always have a champion in the White House and a seat at the table—because when unions are strong, families are strong, and when families are strong, America is strong.” [Clinton Campaign website, accessed [6/3/16](#)]

**Clinton Sought to Improve the Enforcement of the Davis-Bacon Act.** According to an Office of Senator Clinton press release, “Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) and Congressman Rob Andrews (D-NJ) announced today that they have introduced legislation to improve the enforcement of the Davis Bacon Act. The legislation would allow workers to monitor compliance with the Act by giving them access under the Freedom of Information Act to the payroll records that contractors file with the federal government. The legislation would also make more consistent the treatment of similar offenses under the law by increasing penalties under the Davis Bacon Related Acts to the same level as under the Davis Bacon Act.” [Office of Senator Clinton press release, [12/21/07](#)]

## **HOLDING CORPORATIONS ACCOUNTABLE**

**Clinton Said She Would “Veto Any Legislation That Attempts to Weaken Dodd-Frank and Would Fully Enforce Its Protections.”** “Third, and most important, in the fact sheet Clinton warns against efforts to roll back Dodd-Frank’s financial reforms in ‘the upcoming budget and debt ceiling negotiations’ while vowing to ‘veto any legislation that attempts to weaken the law and would fully enforce its protections.’ One of reformers’ biggest worries at the moment is that this December’s budget chaos could allow Republicans to push through major deregulations, and that the president and Democrats would allow it. Clinton is making a direct challenge to President Obama, who may be called on to veto a budget if lobbyists are successful in their sneak attacks on reform.” [Vox, [10/8/15](#)]

**Clinton: As President She Would Fight for New Rules “That Go Well Beyond Dodd-Frank.”** In a New York Times op-ed, Hillary Clinton wrote, “As president, I would not only veto any legislation that would weaken financial reform, but I would also fight for tough new rules, stronger enforcement and more accountability that go well beyond Dodd-Frank.” [New York Times, [12/7/15](#)]

## CONSUMER PROTECTION

**Wall Street Journal: Clinton Opposed “Republican Legislation to Alter the Leadership Structure of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.”** According to the Wall Street Journal, “In a letter to Democratic House members released Wednesday, Mrs. Clinton expressed her opposition to Republican legislation to alter the leadership structure of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, as well as efforts to “defund and defang” the agency established after the financial crisis to better protect consumers in home mortgages, student loans and bank deposit accounts.” [Wall Street Journal, [10/7/15](#)]

## CORPORATE INVERSIONS

**AP: Clinton’s Exit Tax “Aimed at Cracking Down on Corporate Inversions, a Practice That Permits U.S. Companies to Merge with Corporations Overseas to Lower Their Tax Bill.”**

“Hillary Clinton on Wednesday will unveil a proposal for a new ‘exit tax’ aimed at cracking down on corporate inversions, a practice that permits U.S. companies to merge with corporations overseas to lower their tax bill.” [AP, [12/7/15](#)]

**Wall Street Journal: “Democratic Presidential Front-Runner Hillary Clinton Is Promising to Use Executive Authority, if Needed, to Crack Down on Corporate Maneuvers That Shift Profits out of the U.S.”** “Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton is promising to use executive authority, if needed, to crack down on corporate maneuvers that shift profits out of the U.S.” [Wall Street Journal, [12/9/15](#)]

## INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING

**Hillary Clinton Proposed a \$275 Billion Infrastructure Plan to Rebuild the Nation’s Crumbling Bridges, Ports, Highways and Airports.** “The infrastructure proposal—which was first rolled out at a November event in Boston—will cost \$275 billion. . . . Clinton’s plan looks to increase infrastructure spending over the next five years in order to ‘bankroll upgrades to roads, bridges, airports and public transit.’ The plan also includes establishing a \$25 billion national infrastructure bank, which would put up federal dollars to attract private investment.” [CNN, [5/25/16](#)]

## MANUFACTURING

**Clinton Added Tax Incentives Aimed at Boosting American Manufacturing and Penalties for Businesses That Try to Avoid Taxes Through Offshore Mergers to Her Economic Plan.**

“Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is adding to her package of economic revitalization plans this week with new tax incentives aimed at boosting American manufacturing and penalties for businesses that try to avoid taxes through offshore mergers.” [Washington Post, [12/8/15](#)]

**Clinton's Manufacturing Plan Would Crack Down on Currency Manipulation, Which Puts American Manufacturers at a Disadvantage.** “The plan also includes cracking down on currency manipulation and unfair trade practices. Manufacturers in the United States in raw materials and industries like steel say that currency manipulation in China puts their businesses at a disadvantage in international markets, and Clinton has said before the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal falls short of addressing currency manipulation.” [Time, [12/8/15](#)]

**Clinton Said She Would Double Funding for the “National Network for Manufacturing Innovation Program, a Public-Private Project That Provides Federal Funding to Mid-Sized American Manufacturers.”** “Clinton would double funding for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation program, a public-private project that provides federal funding to mid-sized American manufacturers.” [Time, [12/8/15](#)]

## **IMMIGRATION**

**Hillary Clinton Said She Was a “Huge Supporter of Immigration Reform and a Path to Citizenship...”** According to the Washington Post, “Hillary Rodham Clinton, answering an emotional plea from an undocumented immigrant in New York on Thursday, said that she strongly supports comprehensive immigration reform and called on the Republican-led House to pass legislation granting a path to citizenship. ‘I’m a huge supporter of immigration reform and a path to citizenship and will continue to advocate for that,’ said Clinton, a former secretary of state and prospective 2016 Democratic presidential candidate.” [Washington Post, [4/17/14](#)]

**Clinton Said She Would Introduce Immigration Reform “in the First 100 Days” of Her Presidency.** According to CBS Los Angeles, “‘Immigration is at the center of this presidential campaign,’ Clinton said to the crowd at Mission College. ‘In my first 100 days I will introduce legislation for comprehensive immigration reform.’” [CBS Los Angeles, [6/4/16](#)]

**Clinton Said She Would Support and Expand President Obama’s Executive Orders on DACA AND DAPA.** During an MSNBC Town Hall, when asked about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Clinton said, “Well, that’s why I support the president’s executive orders on DACA and DAPA. And I will do everything I can to make sure that they are kept in place. As you know, there’s a court action challenging them. I don’t know what’s going to happen now, because of the Supreme Court situation. But I will renew them. I will go further if it’s at all legally possible. And I will make this a big political issue because we need to keep those young people working, going to school, being productive members of our society.” [MSNBC Clinton and Sanders Town Hall, [2/19/16](#)]

## EDUCATION

### **Clinton Pledged to “Make Preschool Available and Affordable for Every American Child.”**

The L.A. Times reported: “Hillary Rodham Clinton put early childhood education at the front of her agenda Monday, pledging that as president she would work to make preschool available and affordable for every American child. Clinton, who started her career as an advocate for the Children’s Defense Fund, has long lobbied for expanding the availability of child care and preschool. At a day-care center here, she outlined proposals, including a substantial boost in federal spending to help cover the cost of schooling for 4-year-olds from low-income families.” [LA Times, [6/15/15](#)]

### **Clinton Proposed Plan to Allow Undergraduates to Attend Public Colleges Without Needing Loans.**

The New York Times reported: “With Americans shouldering \$1.2 trillion in student loan debt, and about eight million of them in default, Hillary Rodham Clinton on Monday will propose major new spending by the federal government that would help undergraduates pay tuition at public colleges without needing loans.... But her proposals, which would cost \$350 billion over 10 years and include new refinancing options for those already struggling with debt, are an aggressive response to what many Americans—Democrats and Republicans alike—see as a worsening crisis forcing young adults to move back home with their parents and struggle to get out from under repayment bills.” [New York Times, [8/10/15](#)]

### **Clinton Would Pay for the Plan by Capping the Value of Itemized Deductions Wealthy Families Can Take on Tax Returns.**

The New York Times reported: “Mrs. Clinton would pay for the plan by capping the value of itemized deductions that wealthy families can take on their tax returns.” [New York Times, [8/10/15](#)]

## HEALTH CARE

**Clinton Said She Would “Go Further” and “Strengthen” ACA.** CNN reported: “Tuesday’s announcement tracks with what Clinton has said about Obamacare in the past: She supports the law, but feels tweaks and changes are needed. ‘As president, I want to go further. I want to strengthen the Affordable Care Act,’ she said Tuesday. ‘The truth is it couldn’t and didn’t solve all of our problems.’” [CNN, [9/22/15](#)]

**Clinton Opposes Cadillac Tax on Health Plans.** According to The Hill, “Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton broke from the Obama administration this week in declaring her opposition to ObamaCare’s “Cadillac Tax” on high-end healthcare plans. ‘Too many Americans are struggling to meet the cost of rising deductibles and drug prices. That’s why, among other steps, I encourage Congress to repeal the so-called Cadillac Tax, which applies to some employer-based health plans, and to fully pay for the cost of repeal,’ Clinton wrote in a statement Tuesday.” [The Hill, [9/29/15](#)]

**Clinton's Health Care Proposals Would Focus on Limiting Out-of-Pocket Expenses on Prescription Drugs, Copays and Deductibles.** The Wall Street Journal reported: "Hillary Clinton, laying out her health-care agenda, is trying to shift the national debate surrounding the divisive Affordable Care Act to focus squarely on rising out-of-pocket costs of care. In Iowa on Tuesday, the Democratic presidential contender put forth ideas to control prescription-drug spending. On Wednesday, she'll talk about other consumer costs, such as high copayments and deductibles." [Wall Street Journal, [9/22/15](#)]

**Clinton's Plan Would Cap Out-of-Pocket Monthly Expenses on Prescription Drugs to \$250.** CNN reported: "Clinton's new plan will also tweak Obamacare's mandate on insurance companies, requiring that they limit the amount of money someone can spend monthly on prescription drugs to \$250." [CNN, [9/22/15](#)]

**Clinton's Plan Would Allow Medicare to Negotiate Drug Prices.** CNN reported: "To get drug prices down, Clinton would bank on the federal government's large purchasing power to influence drug companies to provide higher rebates to Medicaid and would allow programs like Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies as a single 40 million person entity, rather than a series of smaller groups." [CNN, [9/22/15](#)]

**Clinton Released Plan to Expand Coverage for Sick Visits, Provide Tax Credits to Americans with Big Medical Bills.** Reuters reported: "Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton unveiled a plan on Wednesday to lower out-of-pocket health costs, including expanded coverage of sick visits to the doctor and tax credits for those with substantial medical bills." [Reuters, [9/23/15](#)]

## PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY

**Clinton Said She Wanted to Improve Social Security Benefits for Women and Low-Income Seniors.** Reuters reported: "Hillary Clinton has told the AFL-CIO she wants to improve Social Security benefits for women and lower-income seniors, offering a glimpse of the Democratic presidential front-runner's thinking on a topic she has rarely addressed on the campaign trail." [Reuters, [8/17/15](#)]

**Clinton: Social Security Not a "Luxury" but a "Necessity."** MSNBC reported: "And Clinton also took a moment to discuss the need to preserve Social Security. She chastised Republicans—though not by name—as 'just wrong' for wanting to change the retirement program. 'What do we do to make sure it is there? We don't mess with it, and we do not pretend that it is a luxury—because it is not a luxury. It is a necessity for the majority of people who draw from Social Security,' she said." [MSNBC, [4/21/15](#)]

**Clinton: Privatizing or Undermining Social Security "Just Wrong."** MSNBC reported: "I think there will be some big political arguments about Social Security,' she continued. 'And my only

question to everybody who thinks we can privatize Social Security or undermine it in some way—and what is going to happen to all these people, like you, who worked 27 years at this other company? What’s going to happen? It’s just wrong.” [MSNBC, [4/21/15](#)]

## TAXES

**Clinton Endorsed the Buffett Rule, Which Would Raise Taxes on Millionaires.** The Washington Post reported: “Clinton backed the Buffett rule, named for billionaire investor Warren Buffett who famously lamented paying a lower tax rate than his secretary, that would impose a minimum tax rate of 30 percent on earnings over \$1 million. The idea never went anywhere in Congress.” [Washington Post, [7/13/15](#)]

**Clinton Called for Closing the Carried Interest Loophole, Making It Harder for Wealthy Financial Advisers to Avoid Taxes.** The Washington Post reported: “[Clinton] also proposed closing the so-called carried interest loophole, which allows investment managers to classify some, if not most, of their income as capital gains interest so they can pay lower taxes on those earnings. Clinton paired that proposal with a pitch to make it harder for wealthy financial advisers to avoid taxes.” [Washington Post, [7/13/15](#)]

**Clinton: “The Rich Need to Pay Their Fair Share.”** WBAY reported: “Speaking to an excited crowd, Clinton pledged to be a fighter on everything from equal pay to affordable daycare and raising the federal minimum wage. ‘I want to even the odds for those who they are stacked against. We know the deck is stacked for those at the top. We need to reshuffle that deck. The rich need to pay their fair share for America.’” [WBAY, [9/11/15](#)]