

**On Workforce Reduction:**

- Cutting over 200,000 jobs during a recession is bad economic policy, plain and simple.
- Federal agencies are already significantly understaffed by decades of shrinking. Federal agencies cannot sustain additional staff cuts.
- Reducing the federal workforce through an arbitrary 2 for 3 replacement policy will reduce the quality and quantity of government services and result in a logistical nightmare for federal agencies and the American public they serve.
- What jobs does the Commission/GOP propose to cut first? It is one thing to say that a 2 for 3 replacement rate is a good idea in the abstract; but it is a completely different story when it results in a 33% reduction in the number of HHS scientists researching cures for cancer.
- When it comes down to it, this proposal means hiring two doctors and nurses caring for our veterans for every 3 lost; 2 border patrol agents fighting drug and human trafficking for every 3 lost; 2 wildland firefighters saving homes and business out West for every 3 lost; and 2 passport workers who prevent international criminals and terrorists from entering our country for every 3 lost.
- This proposal means that only 2 Department of Defense civilians who support the mission of American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan will be doing the work of 3.
- This proposal also means longer waits for federal services such as social security, forcing America's seniors to wait for the benefits they earned through a lifetime of hard work.
- This proposal means a six month wait to get a Passport.
- Not only will it shortchange the American people on the vital services they receive from experienced federal workers every day, it will likely just result in a cost-shift away from federal workers to contractors who have proven to be more expensive and operate with less transparency and oversight.
- Forcing federal employees onto the unemployment rolls will further strain state and federal unemployment programs, costing the taxpayers billions on top of the loss in key federal services.
- In a nutshell, this proposal would diminish services, raise costs, and force the American taxpayer to foot the bill.