

Executive Alert Extra

VOL. 8, NO. 6

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NCPA

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2002

Mental Health Care Briefing

Proposed mental health parity legislation contains mandates that are likely to increase costs, pushing insurance out of reach for more Americans. Speaking at an NCPA briefing on Capitol Hill, Rep. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) said that "Adding mandates to the current system is going to cause it to collapse. Anyone who's arguing for mandates at this point is really arguing for single-payer insurance."

Rep. DeMint and NCPA President John C. Goodman both said patients could get better mental health care with Medical Savings Account plans that give employees more direct control over their health care dollars. "Individuals and families are far more effective in monitoring their own treatment than a third party would be," said Goodman.



Rep. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), speaks at an NCPA Capitol Hill briefing on proposed mental health parity mandate legislation.



Harry Alford and his wife Kay DeBow (left) visit with guests at a recent Policy Forum.

Harry Alford at Policy Forum

The fight for civil rights largely was won in the last century, National Black Chamber of Commerce President Harry Alford proclaimed at a recent Policy Forum co-hosted by the NCPA and the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Alford asked attendees to turn their attention during this century to promoting public policies that benefit black Americans, especially establishing a 10 percent flat tax, abolishing the death tax, reforming Social Security and creating freedom of choice in education.

Alford noted that, "Using personal retirement accounts to reform Social Security will allow not only blacks, but all Americans, to save for a better retirement and also have an asset to pass on to heirs." Alford also applauded the recent Supreme Court decision upholding the use of school vouchers in Cleveland saying, "Vouchers will allow parents whose children are trapped in low-performing schools the chance to escape to a better education."



2,600 Volunteers are Participating in Social Security Reform

The NCPA's national volunteer network to educate average Americans about the crisis facing Social Security and to respond to attacks lodged against investment-based reform – Team NCPA — is off to an astounding start. There are now 2,600 members of Team NCPA, and the Team's Web site has registered more than a million hits since its inception this summer.

Now, we are proud to announce the initial members of the Team NCPA Advisory Council. Members of the Advisory Council were selected because of their expertise on Social Security reform.

ADVISORY COUNCIL



CHAIRMAN
Governor Pete du Pont,
NCPA Policy Chairman and
Chairman, Team NCPA
Advisory Council.



Harry C. Alford, Jr.,
Founder and President of the
National Black Chamber of
Commerce.



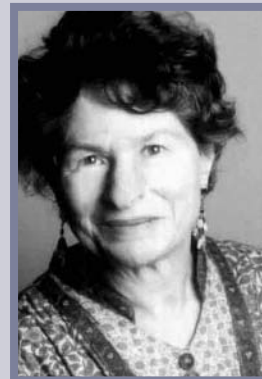
Barry Asmus,
NCPA Senior Economist.



J. Kenneth Blackwell,
Ohio Secretary of State.



John C. Goodman,
NCPA President and Founder.



Estelle James, Ph.D.,
Consultant to the World Bank,
and Member of the President's
Commission to Strengthen
Social Security.

Summers Scholars Weekend

Each year the NCPA hosts a Summers Scholars Policy Weekend for area college students who have received scholarships from the Hatton W. Summers Foundation. The goal is to provide the students with information from experts on both sides of some of the most critical issues of the day.

1. Paul Rosenzweig, Senior Legal Research Fellow at the Heritage Foundation (left), and Robert Levy, Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute (right), speak about civil liberties versus national security.
2. Derrick Max, Executive Director of the Alliance for Worker Retirement Security, speaks about Social Security reform.
3. Attendees relax between panels.
4. Rev. Raymond Bryant, Senior Pastor at St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church (left), and Eric Hartman, Legislative Director of the Texas Federation of Teachers (right), speak on school choice.
5. John Niland, Director of the Texas Defender Service (left), NCPA Senior Fellow H. Sterling Burnett (center), and NCPA Publications Director Joe Barnett (right), speak about the death penalty.
6. Dimpho Gaobepe, Summers Scholar from Houston-Tillotson College (left), Tom Walker, Treasurer of the Hatton Summers Foundation (center), and Gabriella Megyesi, Hungarian economist (right), visit between sessions. Megyesi spoke on globalization and free markets.





NCPA Senior Fellow Celeste Colgan (right), and Tammy Farrell, Treasurer of the Colorado Federation of Republican Women (CFRW): Colgan spoke to an annual gathering of the CFRW about the NCPA's Women in the Economy project.



NCPA Policy Analyst Matt Moore speaks at a Cato Institute forum.

Moore Discusses Social Security and Generation X

Social Security faces tough times ahead, and those tough times are going to weigh most heavily on younger workers and future generations. That was the message of NCPA Policy Analyst Matt Moore as he participated in a briefing sponsored by the Cato Institute on Social Security and younger workers.

The best way to alleviate the problem is to pre-fund a portion of the retirement benefits of future workers. And the best way to do that is to allow younger workers to set some money aside in personal retirement accounts today, invested in a diversified portfolio of assets that track the market as a whole. When they retire, they can then use the accounts to pay a portion of the benefits they would otherwise get from Social Security.

Executive Alert Extra®

Editor..... Sean Tuffnell

The NCPA is a research and education organization operating under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. You can contribute to our effort by mailing your donation to our Dallas headquarters or logging on to our web site at www.ncpa.org. and clicking "Donate."

National Center for Policy Analysis
12655 N. Central Expressway, Suite 720
Dallas, Texas 75243
(972) 386-NCPA
e-mail: ncpa@ncpa.org.



This fall the NCPA's Dallas office hosted four interns. Ruben Garcia (left), is a student at the University of Texas at Dallas, and is pursuing a degree in sociology. Amy Maness (center left), is a graduate of the University of North Texas with a degree in anthropology. Jennifer Trice, a former Summers Scholar (center right), is a graduate of Howard Payne University with a degree in English. Russell Bennett (right), is a graduate of the University of Mississippi with a degree in political science.

Bartlett Discusses Conservative Top 40

Pop music is probably one of the last places a conservative would normally look for reinforcement of his worldview. Rock and roll, which has dominated pop music since the 1950s, is inexorably associated with liberalism in the minds of conservatives. However, according to NCPA Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett, there have been a significant number of

songs on the pop charts during the rock era that are explicitly conservative.

Bartlett detailed his list of conservative classics during a roundtable discussion of America's musical culture at a recent meeting of the Philadelphia Society. Songs that made the list ranged from "Revolution" by the Beatles to "Papa Don't Preach" by Madonna.