

## (NE-02) Message #1 Backup

*Don Bacon:*

- *Supports banning all abortions, including forcing rape victims to keep a pregnancy and he backed politicians who would allow states to monitor women's pregnancies and prosecute them if they get an abortion.*
- *Supported policies that hurt Nebraska families' pocketbooks, like raising taxes on middle class families while giving more tax cuts to multi-millionaires and big corporations, and trying to repeal health protections for those with preexisting conditions.*

### **Don Bacon: Supports Banning All Abortions, Including Forcing Rape Victims To Keep A Pregnancy**

**Bacon Said That He Would “Go Down That Path” Referring To A Constitutional Amendment To Protect “Personhood For The Unborn.”** WOMAN: “Okay, back to Roe v. Wade. So that’s pushed everything back to the states because that’s where it belongs. In fact all hell is going to unleash now because we’re divided in every state. What about personhood for the unborn? That’s the only right answer.” BACON: “Which will take a constitutional amendment and I think we should go down that path.” [Trumps Taxes, Twitter, 0:00-0:22, [9/1/22](#)] VIDEO

**HEADLINE: “Endangered Republican Don Bacon Quietly Deletes Anti-Abortion Endorsements From Website.”** [Rolling Stone, [3/22/24](#)]

**2021: Bacon Co-Sponsored The Life At Conception Act.** On May 14, 2021, Bacon co-sponsored HR 1011, the Life At Conception Act, which “declares that the right to life guaranteed by the Constitution is vested in each human being at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual comes into being. Nothing in this bill shall be construed to authorize the prosecution of any woman for the death of her unborn child.” The bill was read twice and referred to House Judiciary. [H.R. 1011, Introduced [2/11/21](#)]

- **Cedar Rapids Gazette: The Life At Conception Act “Aims To Block Abortions At All Stages” And “Does Not Indicate Any Exceptions In Cases Of Rape, Incest Or When The Pregnant Person Is At Risk.”** “This legislation is a personhood bill, one of many proposals over the years that aims to block abortions at all stages by legally recognizing all stages of human development as persons. The bill defines human beings protected under this measure as those ‘at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being.’” [Cedar Rapids Gazette, [7/11/22](#)]
- **The Life At Conception Act Would Enact A Nationwide Abortion Ban.** “The Life at Conception Act is fewer than 300 words, but its language leaves little room for ambiguity on abortion...Put simply: “It would be a nationwide abortion ban,” said Mary Ziegler, a professor at UC Davis School of Law who studies reproductive rights. Even California, which has positioned itself as a haven for abortion rights, would be affected. [Los Angeles Times, [8/29/22](#)]
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person.” The bill was read introduced in the House and referred to the House Committee On The Judiciary. [H.R. 616, [1/16/19](#)]

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**A Ten-Year-Old Had To Travel Over State Lines To Access An Abortion Because Of Near Total Abortion Bans In Her State.** “The case of a 10-year-old girl who had to travel from her home in Ohio to Indiana to receive an abortion after being raped has become national news—and a major political issue following the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. The child, then nearly six-and-a-half weeks pregnant, could not legally receive an abortion in Ohio due to the state’s ‘fetal heartbeat’ law, which went into effect after the Court abolished the constitutional right to an abortion. Her doctor phoned Indianapolis physician Dr. Caitlin Bernard, who agreed to perform the procedure. Bernard went public with the story in the Indianapolis Star.” [Time.com, [7/15/22](#)]

### **And He Backed Politicians Who Would Allow States To Monitor Women’s Pregnancies And Prosecute Them If They Get An Abortion**

**2016, 2020: Bacon Endorsed Trump Twice.** “Bacon twice endorsed Trump.” [Nebraska Examiner, [10/10/23](#)]

**2024: Bacon Said He Would Support Trump If He Wins The Nomination.** “U.S. Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., who has drawn two primary challengers since saying he would not support former President Donald Trump during the GOP presidential primary, told local Republicans on Tuesday that he will support whoever wins the GOP nomination against President Joe Biden, including Trump.” [1011 NOW, [1/24/24](#)]

**Bacon Went “All-In For Trump” At February 2020 Rally Where He Served As A Trump Campaign Surrogate.** “[T]he crowd thundered approval for Rep. Don Bacon when he took the mic. The affable Republican from Nebraska went all-in for Trump, one of 80 surrogates the Trump campaign sent to Iowa caucuses. Bacon touted Trump’s record on trade and the economy and criticized ‘Speaker Pelosi’ and the Democrats’ ‘radical socialist agenda.’” [Omaha World-Herald, 2/4/20]

**Trump Said He Would Let Red States Monitor Women’s Pregnancies And Prosecute Those Who Violate Abortion Bans.** “Trump told me, he would be willing to build migrant detention camps and deploy the U.S. military, both at the border and inland. He would let red states monitor women’s pregnancies and prosecute those who violate abortion bans.” [Time, [8/30/24](#)]

### **Supported Policies That Hurt Nebraska Families’ Pocketbooks, Like Raising Taxes On Middle Class Families While Giving More Tax Cuts To Multi-Millionaires And Big Corporations...**

**Bacon Voted For Final Passage Of The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act By Concurring With A Senate Amendment.** In December 2017, Bacon voted for: “Brady, R-Texas, motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the tax overhaul that would revise the federal income tax system by: lowering the corporate

tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent; lowering individual tax rates through 2025; limiting state and local deductions to \$10,000 through 2025; decreasing the limit on deductible mortgage debt through 2025; and creating a new system of taxing U.S. corporations with foreign subsidiaries. Specifically, it would repeal personal exemptions and would roughly double the standard deduction through 2025. It would raise the child tax credit to \$2,000 through 2025, would repeal the alternative minimum tax for corporations and provide for broader exemptions to the tax for individuals through 2025. It would double individual exemptions to the estate tax and gift tax through 2025, and would establish a new top tax rate for "pass-through" business income through 2025. It would effectively eliminate the penalty for not purchasing health insurance under the 2010 health care overhaul law in 2019. It would also open portions of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling." The motion was passed 224-201. [HR 1, [Vote #699](#), 12/20/17; CQ Floor Votes, [12/20/17](#)]

- **The Tax Cut And Jobs Act Would Reduce Federal Top Corporate Income Tax Rate From 35 Percent To 21 Percent.** "The Tax Cut and Jobs Act (TCJA) reduced the federal top corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent, bringing the combined US federal and state rates to about the average for most other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, and eliminated the graduated corporate rate schedule." [Tax Policy Center, accessed [6/10/24](#)]
- **The Trump Tax Law Was "Skewed To The Rich," Such As Households With Incomes In The Top 1 Percent.** "As this debate unfolds, policymakers and the public should understand that the 2017 Trump tax law: Was skewed to the rich. Households with incomes in the top 1 percent will receive an average tax cut of more than \$60,000 in 2025, compared to an average tax cut of less than \$500 for households in the bottom 60 percent, according to the Tax Policy Center (TPC)." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/13/24](#)]
- **Politifact: GOP Tax Bill Would Raise Taxes For The Middle Class After Individual Tax Cut Provisions Expired In 2025.** "Gillibrand said the Republican 'tax [plan] raises middle-class taxes.' That's not true during the first years of the new tax provisions. If not for the sunset for the tax changes for individuals, we likely would have rated Gillibrand's statement False or perhaps Mostly False. Middle-income taxpayers will either benefit or see no change in their tax liability through 2025. But her claim could hold up after the bill's individual provisions expire that year. There's no guarantee a future Congress will extend those parts of the bill." [Politifact, [12/22/17](#)]
- **Tax Policy Center: In 2018, 5 Percent Of Taxpayers Would Pay More In Taxes Under The GOP Tax Bill, But Would Increase To 53 Percent Of Taxpayers In 2027.** "Some taxpayers would pay more in taxes under the proposal in 2018 and 2025 than under current law: about 5 percent of taxpayers in 2018 and 9 percent in 2025. In 2027, however, taxes would increase for 53 percent of taxpayers compared with current law." [Tax Policy Center, [12/18/17](#)]

## ...And Trying To Repeal Health Protections For Those With Preexisting Conditions

**Bacon On The American Health Care Act: "I've Changed My Vote From 'Yes' To 'Hell Yes.'"**  
"Abandoning negotiations, President Donald Trump late Thursday demanded a make-or-break vote on health care legislation today in the House, threatening to leave the Affordable Care Act in place and move on to other issues if the vote fails. The risky move, part gamble and part threat, was presented to GOP lawmakers behind closed doors Thursday night after a long and intense day that saw a planned vote on the health care bill scrapped as the legislation remained short of votes amid cascading negotiations among conservative lawmakers, moderates and others. [...] As Bacon emerged from the meeting, he said it

included great speeches calling for unity. He reiterated his strong support for the GOP bill. ‘I’ve changed my vote, from ‘yes’ to ‘hell, yes,’ Bacon said.” [Associated Press, [3/24/17](#)]

**Bacon Voted For Beginning The Process Of Repealing Affordable Care Act.** In January 2017, Bacon voted for: “Adoption of the concurrent resolution that includes reconciliation instructions for the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees as well as the Senate Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committees to develop legislation to reduce the deficit by at least \$1 billion each over a 10-year period by January 27, 2017, which is expected to repeal parts of the 2010 health care law. The concurrent resolution also would set broad spending and revenue targets over the next 10 years. It would allow \$3.3 trillion in new budget authority for fiscal 2017.” The resolution was adopted 227-198. [S Con Res 3, [Vote #58](#), 1/13/17; CQ Floor Votes, [1/13/17](#)]

- **The Vote “Began The Process Of Dismantling The Affordable Care Act” By Allowing Republicans To Use Budget Reconciliation To Roll Back The Law.** “The House of Representatives began the process of dismantling the Affordable Care Act on Friday, approving a budget resolution on a mostly party line vote. The vote was 227-198. The Senate passed the measure earlier this week. It allows Republicans on Capitol Hill to use a process known as ‘budget reconciliation’ to roll back major parts of the health care law. Top Republican leaders are also saying they plan to move to replace Obamacare along the same track, but they are still struggling to come up with the details on how it will work.” [CNN, [1/3/17](#)]

**Bacon Said He Would Vote For A Repeal And Then Work On A Replacement Of The ACA.** “Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., campaigned last year in part on repealing the ACA. He narrowly defeated incumbent Democrat Brad Ashford in the Omaha area’s 2<sup>nd</sup> District. Bacon said recently that while the law has helped some people, more have been hurt. He said he will vote for repeal and then work on the replacement.” [North Platte Telegraph, 1/13/17]

**Omaha World-Herald: Bacon Wanted To “Scrap Obamacare.”** “Bacon wants to scrap Obamacare and raise the retirement age on workers who are currently in their 30s or 40s.” [Omaha World-Herald, 10/15/16]

**American Health Care Act Allows Insurers To Charge Older Customers Five Times More Than Younger Adults.** “Raises premiums for older people. The Affordable Care Act limited insurers from charging older customers more than three times what they charge younger adults. The House bill would raise that to five times. This may enable younger consumers to find cheaper coverage, but older policyholders would face higher rates.” [Huffington Post, [3/6/17](#)]

**Politifact Found That AHCA “Would Weaken Protections” For Those With Pre-Existing Conditions, “Would Allow States To Give Insurers The Power To Charge People Significantly More.”** “An ad by the American Action Network says that under the American Health Care Act ‘people with pre-existing conditions are protected.’ The only kernel of truth here is that the amendment has language that states insurers can’t limit access to coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions. However, the ad omits that the House GOP health plan would weaken protections for these patients. The legislation would allow states to give insurers the power to charge people significantly more if they had a pre-existing condition. While Republicans point to the fact that those patients could get help through high-risk pools, experts question their effectiveness. Current law does not allow states to charge people with pre-existing conditions significantly more. We rate this claim Mostly False.” [Politifact, [5/24/17](#)]

**(NE-02) Message # 2 Backup**

*Nebraska families are rightfully frustrated by continued mass shootings and gun violence in our communities, but because Don Bacon only cares about his power, he does whatever Trump and MAGA tell him to do. In Congress, Bacon is focused on an extreme agenda, not keeping us safe. He has repeatedly voted against closing loopholes in our gun laws that would keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous people, including domestic abusers.*

## **[Bacon] Has Repeatedly Voted Against Closing Loopholes In Our Gun Laws That Would Keep Guns Out Of The Hands Of Criminals And Other Dangerous People, Including Domestic Abusers**

**Headline: “Rep. Don Bacon Has Consistently Opposed Commonsense Gun Safety Laws.”** [Nebraska Independent, [9/12/24](#)]

**2021: Bacon Voted Against Requiring Background Checks On Most Gun Sales, Including Those Between Private Parties.** In March 2021, Bacon voted against: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would require most purchasers of firearms to undergo a background check through the FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Specifically, beginning 180 days after enactment, it would require any individual seeking to transfer a firearm to first bring the firearm to a licensed dealer. It would require the dealer to take possession of the firearm, complete a background check on the transferee, and return the firearm to its original owner if the transaction is denied. The bill would make a number of exceptions to the requirement, including for loans or gifts between family members; temporary transfers for hunting, use on a shooting range, or pest control by farmers; temporary transfers to prevent imminent death or bodily harm, including self-harm; and transfers to law enforcement personnel, private security professionals, or members of the armed forces, if associated with official duties.” The bill passed by a vote of 227-203. [HR 8, [Vote #75](#), 3/11/21; CQ, [3/11/21](#)]

- **HR 8 Would Expand The Cases Where A Background Check Is Required For Gun Sales, Closing The “Gun Show Loophole.”** “H.R. 8, a background checks package meant to enhance reviews of those seeking firearms, would not create a registry or other federal mechanisms for review. Instead, the legislation would expand the cases in which a background check is required for the sale or transfer of a firearm, including for private individuals and groups, closing the ‘Gun Show Loophole.’ The requirements would apply to online sales. The bill would make it illegal for anyone who is not a licensed firearm importer, manufacturer or dealer to trade or sell firearms to another person; current federal law requires background checks only for licensed gun dealers.” [USA Today, [3/11/21](#)]

**Bacon Voted Against The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Gun Violence Package.** In June 2022 Bacon voted against: “Nadler, D-N.Y., motion to concur in the Senate amendments to the House amendment to the bipartisan gun violence package that would provide over \$4.6 billion in emergency funding through fiscal 2026 to address gun violence and mental health, and tighten restrictions on firearm purchases... It would close the ‘boyfriend loophole’ by applying restrictions on gun ownership for individuals convicted of domestic violence to include violence against a current or former dating partner...As an offset, the bill would extend for one year, until Jan. 1, 2027, a moratorium delaying implementation of a rule eliminating anti-kickback statute safe harbor protection for prescription drug rebates. It would increase funding available for the Medicare Improvement Fund from \$5 million to \$7.5 billion.” The motion was agreed to, (thus cleared for the president), by a vote of 234-193. [S. 2938, [Vote #299](#), 6/24/22; CQ, [6/24/22](#)]

- **The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Enhanced Background Checks That Tightened The Boyfriend Loophole.** “Arguably, the subsequent success of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act,

which President Biden signed into law in June, shows that the organizing of recent years has at last paid off; among other provisions, the legislation enhanced background checks for gun buyers under 21, tightened the ‘boyfriend loophole’ for domestic abusers and invested \$250 million in community-based violence prevention programs.” [Washington Post, [9/21/22](#)]

**Bacon Voted Against Extending The Timeframe For FBI Notification On Background Checks From Three Days To 20 Days.** In March 2021, Bacon voted against: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would require a licensed gun dealer to wait up to 20 business days, as opposed to three under current law, for notification from the FBI regarding an individual's background check before completing the sale or transfer of a firearm. Specifically, it would allow a prospective gun purchaser to petition the Justice Department to complete the sale after 10 days if no determination on their eligibility has been made through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and allow the dealer to complete the transaction an additional 10 days after the petition is submitted. It would also require the Government Accountability Office, FBI and Justice Department to submit a number of reports regarding the bill's effectiveness and implementation, including on the number of petitions not adjudicated within the second 10-day period and the bill's effect on the safety of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.” The bill passed by a vote of 219-210. [HR 1446, [Vote #77](#), 3/11/21; CQ, [3/11/21](#)]

**Bacon Voted Against The Enhanced Background Check Act, Which Would Have Increased The Amount Of Time A Gun Dealer Must Wait To Hear From The FBI For A Background Check.** In February 2019, Bacon voted against: “Passage of the bill that would require a licensed gun dealer to wait up to 20 business days, as opposed to three under current law, to hear from the FBI regarding an individual’s background check, in instances in which no immediate determination on the individual had been made through the NICS system, before being allowed to complete the sale or transfer of a firearm. It would allow a prospective gun purchaser to petition the Justice Department for the weapon after 10 days. The bill would also modify the language that prohibits the sale of firearms to individuals on the basis of mental illness to bar sales to individuals ‘adjudicated with mental illness, severe developmental disability, or severe emotional instability.’” The bill passed by a vote of 228-198. [HR 1112, [Vote #103](#), 2/28/19; CQ, [2/28/19](#)]

**Bacon Voted Against Expanding Background Checks To Include Those At Gun Shows And Online.** In March 2021, Bacon voted against: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would require most purchasers of firearms to undergo a background check through the FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Specifically, beginning 180 days after enactment, it would require any individual seeking to transfer a firearm to first bring the firearm to a licensed dealer. It would require the dealer to take possession of the firearm, complete a background check on the transferee, and return the firearm to its original owner if the transaction is denied. The bill would make a number of exceptions to the requirement, including for loans or gifts between family members; temporary transfers for hunting, use on a shooting range, or pest control by farmers; temporary transfers to prevent imminent death or bodily harm, including self-harm; and transfers to law enforcement personnel, private security professionals, or members of the armed forces, if associated with official duties.” The bill passed by a vote of 227-203. [HR 8, [Vote #75](#), 3/11/21; CQ, [3/11/21](#)]

## (NE-02) Message #3 Backup

*Vargas is a former public school teacher and school board member who wants to give the next generation of Nebraskans the best education possible. That’s why he’ll work to get teachers a much-needed raise, fully fund our public schools, and stand up to anyone who plays politics with our kids’ futures.*

## Vargas Is A Former Public School Teacher And School Board Member Who Wants To Give The Next Generation Of Nebraskans The Best Education Possible

**Vargas Was A Public School Teacher.** “Prior to his time in the legislature, Vargas started his career as a public school teacher in New York City with Teach for America.” [3 News Now Omaha, [7/13/21](#)]

**Vargas Was On The Omaha Public Schools Board.** “Prior to his time in the legislature, Vargas started his career as a public school teacher in New York City with Teach for America. He was later appointed to serve on the Omaha Public Schools Board in 2013.” [3 News Now Omaha, [7/13/21](#)]

## That’s Why He’ll Work To Get Teachers A Much-Needed Raise, Fully Fund Our Public Schools, And Stand Up To Anyone Who Plays Politics With Our Kids’ Futures

**Vargas Said Teachers, “Deserve To Be Paid Higher Wages.”** “Over the last few years, we’ve also watched our teachers adapt and persevere in the most challenging circumstances. They deserve to be paid higher wages that are commensurate with their service to our kids and our communities.” [Tony Vargas, Website, Issues, accessed [7/11/24](#)]

**Vargas Opposed LB1402, Which Would Take Public Funds To Pay For Private Schools.** [Nebraska State Education Association, Facebook, [4/18/24](#)]



The image shows a Facebook post from the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) dated April 18. The post features a large graphic with the text "thank you!" in a cursive font, underlined. Below the text is a grid of 16 portraits of Nebraska senators, arranged in three rows of four. The names of the senators are listed below each portrait: SEN. BLOOD, SEN. BOSTAR, SEN. BRANDT, SEN. CONRAD, SEN. DAY, SEN. DEBOER, SEN. DUNGAN, SEN. FREDRICKSON, SEN. HUNT, SEN. J. CAVANAUGH, SEN. M. CAVANAUGH, SEN. RAYBOULD, SEN. VARGAS, and SEN. WISHART. The text of the post reads: "We want to THANK the senators who opposed LB1402, the latest voucher scheme from Sen. Lou Ann Linehan that she admitted is an 'end-run' around the successful petition drive to let voters decide whether they support using public funds to pay for private schools. The following state lawmakers respected Nebraskans right to vote on this issue and supported our public schools. They have our appreciation and support: Senators Carol Blood, Eliot Bostar, Tom Brandt, Danielle Conrad, Jen Day, Wendy DeBoer, George Dungan, John Fredrickson, Megan Hunt, John Cavanaugh, Machaela Cavanaugh, Jane Raybould, Tony Vargas, and Anna Wishart. We are disappointed in the passage of LB1402 today. Public school supporters will work together to challenge LB1402. See less". The post has 265 likes and 92 comments. A comment from Debra Spicka Polacek says "Thank you, senators!".

[Nebraska State Education Association, Facebook, [4/18/24](#)]

**Vargas Called To “Strengthen Our Public Schools.”** “As a former public school science teacher, a parent, and a former school board member, strengthening our public schools and providing a high quality education to Nebraska kids is an issue that Tony is deeply passionate about.” [Tony Vargas, Website, Issues, accessed [7/11/24](#)]

## NE-02 Message #4 Backup

*Don Bacon supports banning all abortions, even forcing rape victims to keep a pregnancy. That’s why he will rubber-stamp Project 2025, a plan to give Trump and Republicans unprecedented power by eliminating the checks and balances in our system. The plan calls for monitoring women’s pregnancies and prosecuting women if they miscarry or get an abortion and would limit access to abortion, IVF, and birth control.*

### **Don Bacon Supports Banning All Abortions, Even Forcing Rape Victims To Keep A Pregnancy**

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## **That’s Why He Will Rubber-Stamp Project 2025, A Plan To Give Trump And Republicans Unprecedented Power By Eliminating The Checks And Balances In Our System, The Plan Calls For Monitoring Women’s Pregnancies And Prosecuting Women If They Miscarry Or Get An Abortion...**

**At Least 140 People Who Worked For Trump Were Involved In Writing The Project 2025 Playbook.** “Donald Trump has lately made clear he wants little to do with Project 2025, the conservative blueprint for the next Republican president that has attracted considerable blowback in his race for the White House. ‘I have no idea who is behind it,’ the former president recently claimed on social media. [...] In fact, at least 140 people who worked in the Trump administration had a hand in Project 2025, a CNN review found, including more than half of the people listed as authors, editors and contributors to ‘Mandate for Leadership,’ the project’s extensive manifesto for overhauling the executive branch.” [CNN, [7/11/24](#)]

**Six Of Trump’s Former Cabinet Secretaries Helped Write Or Collaborated On The Project 2025 Playbook.** “Six of his former Cabinet secretaries helped write or collaborated on the 900-page playbook for a second Trump term published by the Heritage Foundation. Four individuals Trump nominated as ambassadors were also involved, along with several enforcers of his controversial immigration crackdown. And about 20 pages are credited to his first deputy chief of staff.” [CNN, [7/11/24](#)]

**The Week: “Project 2025 Is The Brainchild Of A Conservative Think Tank Called The Heritage Foundation.”** “While the plan has not gained significant amounts of traction in the national news media, Project 2025 is the brainchild of a conservative think tank called the Heritage Foundation. The foundation is collaborating with at least 80 other conservative groups to spearhead an effort to ‘rescue the country from the grip of the radical left,’ with a ‘governing agenda and the right people in place, ready to carry this agenda out on day one of the next conservative administration,’ according to the Project 2025 website.” [Week, [2/26/24](#)]

**Roberts Said He Saw Project 2025’s Role As “Institutionalizing Trumpism.”** “Since taking over the Heritage Foundation in 2021, Kevin D. Roberts has been making his mark on an institution that came to prominence during the Reagan years and has long been seen as an incubator of conservative policy and thought. [...] Roberts told me that he views Heritage’s role today as ‘institutionalizing Trumpism.’ This includes leading Project 2025, a transition blueprint that outlines a plan to consolidate power in the executive branch, dismantle federal agencies and recruit and vet government employees to free the next

Republican president from a system that Roberts views as stacked against conservative power.” [New York Times, [1/21/24](#)]

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**2024: Bacon Said He Would Support Trump If He Wins The Nomination.** “U.S. Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., who has drawn two primary challengers since saying he would not support former President Donald Trump during the GOP presidential primary, told local Republicans on Tuesday that he will support whoever wins the GOP nomination against President Joe Biden, including Trump.” [1011 NOW, [1/24/24](#)]

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## ...And Would Limit Access To Abortion, IVF, And Birth Control

**Project 2025 Would Severely Limit Abortion Access Nationwide.** “Project 2025 calls for hundreds of individual policy changes that will impact our constitutional freedoms, and every aspect of our lives. Among them are: Gutting Abortion Access Severely limiting abortion access nationwide by reversing the FDA’s approval of mifepristone, a drug used in medication abortion, and reviving a 19th century law, the Comstock Act, to ban any abortion medications, equipment, or materials from being sent through the U.S. Postal Service.” [Project 2025, accessed [8/19/24](#)]

**Project 2025 Called To Enforce The Comstock Act.** “Project 2025, the presidential transition plan backed by many of Trump’s conservative allies and embraced by other Republicans, calls for Comstock’s enforcement. Spencer Chretien, Project 2025’s associate director and previous special assistant to former President Trump, told NOTUS that, ‘the most intense focus is on the first 180 days, the first six months of the new administration. That’s when the president has the most capital. That’s when you’ve got to go big.’ Among the actions that the project considers a priority during this period, Chretien said, is enforcing Comstock.” [NOTUS, [1/19/24](#)]

- **The Comstock Act Prohibited The Shipment Of Anything Intended For An Abortion.** “They’re pinning their hopes on the Comstock Act, a series of laws enacted in 1873 that prohibit the shipment of ‘every article or thing designed, adapted or intended for producing abortion.’ The law was essentially unenforceable during the Roe era, but a federal judge in Texas ruled in 2023 that the Comstock Act prohibits the shipment of the two drugs used in more than half of all abortions today.” [NOTUS, [1/19/24](#)]

**Project 2025 Called To Restore Trump Era Religious And Moral Exceptions To The Contraception Mandate.** “Restore Trump religious and moral exemptions to the contraceptive mandate (also a CMS rule). HHS should rescind, if finalized, the regulation titled ‘Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act,’ proposed jointly by HHS, Treasury, and Labor. This rule proposes to

amend Trump-era final rules regarding religious and moral exemptions and accommodations for coverage of certain preventive services under the ACA. Preventive services include contraception, and it appears the proposed rule would change the existing regulations for religious and moral exemptions to the ACA's contraception mandate. There is no need for further rulemaking that curtails existing exemptions and accommodations.” [2025 Mandate for Leadership, Pg 483, accessed [7/23/24](#)]

- **The Contraception Mandate Was A Part Of The ACA And Required All Health Insurance Plans To Cover Female Contraception.** “As of August 1, 2012, the ACA contraception mandate required that all new health insurance plans provide FDA-approved female contraception and contraceptive services, without patient cost-sharing[9,10]. This mandate reduced out-of-pocket costs[11–15], and while evidence is mixed[11,15–18], some research suggests the mandate increased use of specific contraceptives such as LARCs[14,19,20]. Patterns of contraceptive use and effects of the mandate on contraceptive use also appear to differ by race/ethnicity, insurance type, and relationship status[7,19,21–25]. Whether the ACA contraception mandate reduced unintended pregnancies (i.e., via increased access and affordability of contraceptive resources), and whether that decrease was uniform across women of reproductive age, or if it differed by demographic characteristics (race/ethnicity, insurance type, or relationship status) remains unknown.” [National Library of Medicine, [10/23/19](#)]
- **The Trump Era Ban Allowed Employers To Exclude Contraceptive Coverage.** “In October 2017, the Trump administration made it much easier for an employer to exclude contraceptive coverage from any health plan it offers to its employees and their dependents. One regulation allows any employer—nonprofit or for-profit—to exclude some or all contraceptive methods and services from the health plans it sponsors if the employer has religious objections. Another regulation allows employers with moral objections to do the same, although it applies to a slightly narrower set of employers (any employer that is not a publicly traded company). Enforcement of these regulations has been blocked by the courts. Previous federal regulations are in effect that offer an exemption for a much narrower set of explicitly religious employers and provide an ‘accommodation’ for other nonprofit and closely held for-profit employers with religious objections that allows them to avoid paying or arranging for contraceptive coverage while still ensuring that employees and dependents receive coverage seamlessly from the same insurance company. Most of the state laws that expand contraceptive coverage offer exemptions as well, although few of them are as broad as the blocked federal exemption.” [Guttmacher, [9/1/23](#)]

**Project 2025 Included Language Promoting Fetal Personhood.** “Project 2025, a comprehensive conservative policy blueprint, does not directly mention in vitro fertilization, but critics have warned included language promoting fetal personhood could have far-reaching consequences for IVF.” [USA Today, [8/7/24](#)]

- **The Life At Conception Act Would Grant Equal Protection Under The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment To Fetuses, Effectively Banning Abortion With No Exceptions And Eliminating Medical Choices Including In Vitro Fertilization.** “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person. ‘Human person’ is defined as: [...] each and every member of the species homo sapiens at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being. The bill would grant constitutional rights to fertilized eggs, embryos, fetuses, and clones. It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro

fertilization. The bill would not allow for prosecution of any pregnant person for the ‘death’ of their ‘unborn child.’” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]

- **Personhood Bills That Define Human Life To Begin At Conception Would Severely Impact Infertility Treatments, Especially IVF.** “Personhood bills aim to define human life to begin at the moment of fertilization or conception and grant constitutional rights and privileges to all persons from that moment. If these proposals were to become personhood laws, they would severely impact infertility treatments, especially IVF.” [Arc Fertility, What Do Personhood Bills & Laws Mean in IVF, accessed [2/23/24](#)]
- **Arc Fertility: If Fertilized Eggs/Embryos Are Considered Full Humans, Anything That Puts An Embryo At Risk Could Be A Criminal Violation, Including IVF Treatments.** “As outlined by RESOLVE, with Personhood legislation, however, the legality of effective pro-pregnancy fertility treatments such as IVF could be called into question: if microscopic fertilized eggs/embryos are full humans, anything that puts an embryo at risk could be a criminal violation, even if its goal is the undeniable social good of helping someone have a baby.” [Arc Fertility, What Do Personhood Bills & Laws Mean in IVF, accessed [2/23/24](#)]

## (NE-02) Message #5

*In Congress, Bacon fought for a nationwide ban on abortion with no exceptions for rape, incest, or life of the woman.*

### **In Congress, Bacon Fought For A Nationwide Ban On Abortion With No Exceptions For Rape, Incest, Or Life Of The Woman**

**2021: Bacon Co-Sponsored The Life At Conception Act.** On May 14, 2021, Bacon co-sponsored HR 1011, the Life At Conception Act, which “declares that the right to life guaranteed by the Constitution is vested in each human being at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual comes into being. Nothing in this bill shall be construed to authorize the prosecution of any woman for the death of her unborn child.” The bill was read twice and referred to House Judiciary. [H.R. 1011, Introduced [2/11/21](#)]

- **Cedar Rapids Gazette: The Life At Conception Act “Aims To Block Abortions At All Stages” And “Does Not Indicate Any Exceptions In Cases Of Rape, Incest Or When The Pregnant Person Is At Risk.”** “This legislation is a personhood bill, one of many proposals over the years that aims to block abortions at all stages by legally recognizing all stages of human development as persons. The bill defines human beings protected under this measure as those ‘at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being.’” [Cedar Rapids Gazette, [7/11/22](#)]
- **The Life At Conception Act Would Enact A Nationwide Abortion Ban.** “The Life at Conception Act is fewer than 300 words, but its language leaves little room for ambiguity on abortion...Put simply: “It would be a nationwide abortion ban,” said Mary Ziegler, a professor at UC Davis School of Law who studies reproductive rights. Even California, which has positioned itself as a haven for abortion rights, would be affected. [Los Angeles Times, [8/29/22](#)]
- **2019: Bacon Co-Sponsored The Life At Conception Act.** On January 16, 2019, Bacon co-sponsored HR 616, the Life At Conception Act, which sought “To implement equal protection under

the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person.” The bill was read introduced in the House and referred to the House Committee On The Judiciary. [H.R. 616, [1/16/19](#)]

- **2017: Bacon Co-Sponsored The Life At Conception Act.** On January 24, 2017, Bacon co-sponsored HR 616, the Life At Conception Act, which “declares that the right to life guaranteed by the Constitution is vested in each human being at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual comes into being. Nothing in this bill shall be construed to authorize the prosecution of any woman for the death of her unborn child.” The bill was read introduced in the House and referred to the House Committee On The Judiciary [H.R. 681, [1/24/17](#)]

## (NE-02) Message #6

*Bacon’s support for Trump’s Project 2025 agenda will also harm everyday Nebraska families. The plan calls for raising taxes on middle-class families, allowing employers to stop paying workers overtime, and making deep cuts to public education.*

### **Bacon’s Support For Trump’s Project 2025 Agenda Will Also Harm Everyday Nebraska Families, The Plan Calls For Raising Taxes On Middle-Class Families...**

#### **At Least 140 People Who Worked For Trump Were Involved In Writing The Project 2025**

**Playbook.** “Donald Trump has lately made clear he wants little to do with Project 2025, the conservative blueprint for the next Republican president that has attracted considerable blowback in his race for the White House. ‘I have no idea who is behind it,’ the former president recently claimed on social media. [...] In fact, at least 140 people who worked in the Trump administration had a hand in Project 2025, a CNN review found, including more than half of the people listed as authors, editors and contributors to ‘Mandate for Leadership,’ the project’s extensive manifesto for overhauling the executive branch.” [CNN, [7/11/24](#)]

#### **Six Of Trump’s Former Cabinet Secretaries Helped Write Or Collaborated On The Project 2025**

**Playbook.** “Six of his former Cabinet secretaries helped write or collaborated on the 900-page playbook for a second Trump term published by the Heritage Foundation. Four individuals Trump nominated as ambassadors were also involved, along with several enforcers of his controversial immigration crackdown. And about 20 pages are credited to his first deputy chief of staff.” [CNN, [7/11/24](#)]

**The Week: “Project 2025 Is The Brainchild Of A Conservative Think Tank Called The Heritage Foundation.”** “While the plan has not gained significant amounts of traction in the national news media, Project 2025 is the brainchild of a conservative think tank called the Heritage Foundation. The foundation is collaborating with at least 80 other conservative groups to spearhead an effort to ‘rescue the country from the grip of the radical left,’ with a ‘governing agenda and the right people in place, ready to carry this agenda out on day one of the next conservative administration,’ according to the Project 2025 website.” [Week, [2/26/24](#)]

**Roberts Said He Saw Project 2025’s Role As “Institutionalizing Trumpism.”** “Since taking over the Heritage Foundation in 2021, Kevin D. Roberts has been making his mark on an institution that came to prominence during the Reagan years and has long been seen as an incubator of conservative policy and thought. [...] Roberts told me that he views Heritage’s role today as ‘institutionalizing Trumpism.’ This includes leading Project 2025, a transition blueprint that outlines a plan to consolidate power in the

executive branch, dismantle federal agencies and recruit and vet government employees to free the next Republican president from a system that Roberts views as stacked against conservative power.” [New York Times, [1/21/24](#)]

**2016, 2020: Bacon Endorsed Trump Twice.** “Bacon twice endorsed Trump.” [Nebraska Examiner, [10/10/23](#)]

**2024: Bacon Said He Would Support Trump If He Wins The Nomination.** “U.S. Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., who has drawn two primary challengers since saying he would not support former President Donald Trump during the GOP presidential primary, told local Republicans on Tuesday that he will support whoever wins the GOP nomination against President Joe Biden, including Trump.” [1011 NOW, [1/24/24](#)]

**Bacon Went “All-In For Trump” At February 2020 Rally Where He Served As A Trump Campaign Surrogate.** “[T]he crowd thundered approval for Rep. Don Bacon when he took the mic. The affable Republican from Nebraska went all-in for Trump, one of 80 surrogates the Trump campaign sent to Iowa caucuses. Bacon touted Trump’s record on trade and the economy and criticized ‘Speaker Pelosi’ and the Democrats’ ‘radical socialist agenda.’” [Omaha World-Herald, [2/4/20](#)]

**Project 2025 Proposed Moving From Seven Tax Brackets To Two—Raising Taxes On Individuals Who Make Less Than \$94,300 From A Maximum Of 12% To 15%.** “Currently, there are seven tax brackets — 10%, 12%, 22%, 24%, 32%, 35% and 37% — with each based on income thresholds. For instance, a married couple pays 10% in federal income tax on their first \$23,200 of income, and then 12% on earnings from \$23,201 to \$94,300, and so on. Married couples need to earn over \$487,450 this year to hit the top tax rate of 37%. Project 2025 argues that the current tax system is too complicated and expensive for taxpayers to navigate. To remedy those problems, it proposes just two tax rates: a 15% flat tax for people earning up to about \$168,000, and a 30% income tax for people earning above that, according to the document. It also proposes eliminating ‘most deductions, credits and exclusions,’ although the blueprint doesn’t specify which ones would go and which would stay.” [CBS News, [7/12/24](#)]

- **Project 2025 “Shifts Taxes From The Wealthy To The Middle Class, Full Stop.”** “The Project 2025 proposal ‘is a dramatic reform of how we fund our government, where we ask the wealthy to pitch in more than lower income families,’ he said. ‘This shifts taxes from the wealthy to the middle class, full stop.’” [CBS News, [7/12/24](#)]

**Project 2025 Tax Reforms Would Increase Taxes On A Family Making \$100,000 By \$2,600 While Decreasing Taxes On A Family Making \$5 Million By \$325,000.** “Millions of low- and middle-class households would likely face significantly higher taxes under the Project 2025’s proposals. He estimated that a middle-class family with two children and an annual income of \$100,000 would pay \$2,600 in additional federal income tax if they faced a 15% flat tax on their income due to the loss of the 10% and 12% tax brackets. If the Child Tax Credit were also eliminated, they would pay an additional \$6,600 compared with today’s tax system, Duke said. By comparison, a married couple with two children and earnings of \$5 million a year would enjoy a \$325,000 tax cut, he estimated.” [CBS News, [7/12/24](#)]

**Project 2025 Proposed Cutting The Corporate Tax Rate To 18%.** “Among other tax and economic changes proposed by Project 2025: Cutting the corporate tax rate to 18% from its current 21%, which was enacted in 2017’s Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Prior to the TCJA, the corporate tax rate stood at 35%.” [CBS News, [7/12/24](#)]

**HEADLINE: “Project 2025’s Tax Plan Would Raise Taxes on the Middle Class and Cut Taxes for the Wealthy.”** [Center for American Progress, [8/27/24](#)]

- **Taxes Could Be Raised By Thousands Of Dollars On The Middle Class Under Project 2025.** “The far-right extremist playbook would immediately raise taxes for the middle class by thousands of dollars while also pushing for long-term changes that could raise taxes by \$5,900.” [Center for American Progress, [8/27/24](#)]

## ...Allowing Employers To Stop Paying Workers Overtime...

**Project 2025 Pushed For A Trump Era Overtime Threshold.** “DOL should maintain an overtime threshold that does not punish businesses in lower-cost regions (e.g., the southeast United States). The Trump-era threshold is high enough to capture most line workers in lower-cost regions. One possibility to consider (likely requiring congressional action) would be to automatically update the thresholds every five years using the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) as an inflation adjustment. This could reduce the likelihood of a future Administration attempting to make significant changes but would also impose more adjustments on businesses as those automatic increases take hold.” [2025 Mandate for Leadership, Pg 592, accessed [7/23/24](#)]

- **The Trump Era Minimum Threshold For Overtime Was \$35,308.** “In a much anticipated move, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) last Thursday issued a proposed rule affecting overtime salary thresholds. The DOL intends to set the minimum salary required to qualify for certain ‘white collar’ exemptions under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) at \$35,308 dollars per year—\$679 per week. The proposed rule would also set the minimum salary threshold for the ‘highly compensated employee’ test at \$147,414 per year.” [Winston & Strawn LLP, [3/1/19](#)]
- **The Threshold For Overtime In 2024 Was \$43,888.** “The US Labor Department’s use of Trump-era wage calculations for the first phase of its expansion of federal overtime pay protections creates a potential legal shield for at least part of a policy change destined for court attacks. The Biden administration’s newly released rule will first increase the salary threshold for overtime eligibility to \$43,888 on July 1, up from its current \$35,568. That number is scheduled to jump to \$58,656 on Jan. 1, meaning workers making less than that amount are automatically owed time-and-a-half wages.” [Bloomberg Law, [4/29/24](#)]
- **Project 2025 Criticized Overtime For Discouraging Employers From Offering “Fringe Benefits.”** “Overtime Pay Threshold. Overtime pay is one of the most challenging aspects of the Fair Labor Standards Act rules. ‘Nonexempt workers’ (e.g., workers whose job duties fall within the law’s power or whose total pay is low enough) must be paid overtime (150 percent of the ‘regular rate’) for every hour over 40 in a workweek. Overtime requirements may discourage employers from offering certain fringe benefits such as reimbursement for education, childcare, or even free meals because the benefits’ value may be included in the ‘regular rate’ that must be paid at 150 percent for all overtime hours. And because some of these fringe benefits may be more valuable (and often come with tax preferences that benefit the worker), the goal should be to set a threshold to ensure lower-income workers have the protections of overtime pay without discouraging employers from offering these benefits.” [2025 Mandate for Leadership, Pg 592, accessed [7/23/24](#)]
- **Project 2025 Called For Congress To Allow Employers To Calculate Overtime Over A Longer Number Of Weeks.** “Congress should provide flexibility to employers and employees to calculate the overtime period over a longer number of weeks. Specifically, employers and employees should be able to set a two- or four week period over which to calculate overtime. This would give workers greater flexibility to work more hours in one week and fewer hours in the next and would not require the employer to pay them more for that same total number of hours of work during the entire period.” [2025 Mandate for Leadership, Pg 592, accessed [7/23/24](#)]

- **This Law Would Limit When An Employee Would Receive “Overtime Pay – To Only When They Work More Than 80 Hours Over A Two-Week Period, Instead Of The Current System Of Working More Than 40 Hours In One Week.”** “Project 2025 would shrink many workers’ paychecks by calling for a law that limits when they receive overtime pay – to only when they work more than 80 hours over a two-week period, instead of the current system of working more than 40 hours in one week. That means if an employee works 55 hours one week and 25 the next, that worker won’t qualify for overtime pay, despite working 55 hours one week.” [Guardian, [8/4/24](#)]

## And Making Deep Cuts To Public Education

**Project 2025 Would Eliminate The Department Of Education.** “Federal education policy should be limited and, ultimately, the federal Department of Education should be eliminated. When power is exercised, it should empower students and families, not government. In our pluralistic society, families and students should be free to choose from a diverse set of school options and learning environments that best fit their needs.” [Project 2025, Chapter 11, [2023](#)]

**Project 2025 Advocated For Abolishing The Department Of Education.** “The Department of Education would be eliminated, student loans would be privatized and federal legislation on parental rights would be pushed under Project 2025, the conservative wish list of policies put together for the next Republican president that has sparked widespread controversy.” [The Hill, [7/12/24](#)]

**Eliminating The Department Of Education Could Lead To Funneling Money To Private Schools.** “Project 2025, the policy agenda for Former President Trump’s potential first year back in the White House published by the far right conservative think tank the Heritage Foundation, has been making waves recently. Some of the many destructive proposals within the agenda include the elimination of the U.S. Department of Education—along with federal education funding and any civil rights protections—and the diversion of public money to private school voucher programs instead.” [Time, [7/22/24](#)]

**Diverting Money To Private Schools Threatens To Shut Down Public Schools Due To Lack of Funding.** “The policies that Project 2025 plans to prioritize—government payments to families sending their children to private school and creation of new charter schools that are run like businesses—have expanded in the last few years, starving public school districts that serve all students of already insufficient resources. [...] Here’s how it works: Concerned about shrinking enrollments and budget crises, district leaders conclude that they must close schools, often without any evidence or analysis that it would save money—and, indeed, it has been shown to save money unless coupled with mass layoffs.” [Time, [7/22/24](#)]

**Abolishing The Department Of Education Would Kill Federal Funding Tied To The Department And Would Increase The Dependence On State Funding Which Would Be Paid For Through Tax Increases.** “Lately, conservative Republicans seeking the presidency love to discuss which cabinet level departments they would abolish should they become President. Texas Senator Ted Cruz [unveiled a plan](#) to abolish four (the Departments of Education, Commerce, Energy, and Housing and Urban Development), plus the Internal Revenue Service and 25 other agencies with names that make conservatives angry (there’s one about salmon). If Cruz were elected and went through with his plan, what would that look like for higher education? When Cruz says he wants to abolish the Department of Education, I take that to mean he wants to kill all existing programs and funding within the department. No more Pell grants, no new federal student loans, no more Title IX enforcement, nothing. And just moving programs to another department is cheating, so let’s assume Cruz wouldn’t do that. [...] But that increase in demand for state subsidized higher education actually increases the burden on states, which would feel the

pressure to expand the number of seats available and pay for it through tax increases.” [New America, [11/11/15](#)]

**The Majority Of Federal Funds For Elementary And Secondary Schools, Including Title I Grants, Were Allocated Through The Department Of Education.** “The federal government spends nearly \$79 billion annually on primary and secondary education programs. Much of the funding is discretionary, meaning it is set annually by Congress through the appropriations process. Funds flow mainly through the Department of Education although other federal agencies administer some funding for education related activities. Through the U.S. Department of Education, the federal government provides nearly \$79 billion a year on primary and secondary education programs. Through the U.S. Department of Education, the federal government provides nearly \$79 billion a year on primary and secondary education programs. The two biggest programs are No Child Left Behind Title I Grants to local school districts (\$14.4 billion in fiscal year 2014) and IDEA Special Education State Grants (\$11.5 billion in fiscal year 2014).” [New America, accessed [6/29/22](#)]

- **2009 – 2019: Federal Revenue For Elementary And Secondary Public Schools Totaled Between \$61 And \$92 Billion.** “In school year 2018–19, elementary and secondary public school revenues totaled \$795 billion in constant 2020–21 dollars.<sup>1,2</sup> Of this total, 8 percent, or \$63 billion, were from federal sources. [...] Federal revenues decreased 34 percent from the 2009–10 high (\$92 billion), the year after the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to \$61 billion in 2013–14. Federal revenues then fluctuated between \$61 billion and \$63 billion from 2013–14 to 2018–19 (\$63 billion).” [National Center for Education Statistics, [May 2022](#)]

**Vox: If The Department Of Education Were Abolished, “States Would Have To Lay Off Teachers, Shorten The School Year, And Undertake Other Budget-Cutting Measures — Or They'd Have To Raise Taxes.”** “During the Republican presidential primary debate Tuesday night, Sen. Ted Cruz became the second national politician from Texas to disdain the Education Department so much he couldn't even remember its name. ‘I would eliminate, the IRS, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Energy... [pause] ...the Department of Commerce, and HUD,’ he said on the primary stage. Later, his campaign clarified that he meant to include the Education Department on that list. Shutting down the department would be a big deal, entailing figuring out what to do with billions of dollars in federal grants and other initiatives. And how it would work in practice could range from a truly drastic change to a mostly cosmetic one. [...] The federal government provides only about 12 percent of K-12 education funding nationally, with the rest provided by states and school districts. And only about half of that money is from the Education Department; the rest comes from the Department of Agriculture for school nutrition programs, the Department of Health and Human Services for Head Start, and other agencies. But because federal money is doled out unevenly, some states would feel the cuts more than others. Getting rid of federal education funding would cut 17 percent of all school funding in Louisiana and South Dakota and 18 percent in Mississippi. Even Connecticut and New Jersey, the two states least dependent on the federal government, would see a 5 percent cut in school revenue. States would have to lay off teachers, shorten the school year, and undertake other budget-cutting measures — or they'd have to raise taxes. Neither is likely to be a winning project politically.” [Vox, [11/12/15](#)]

## (NE-02) Message #7

*Tony Vargas is a current state senator, former science teacher, child of immigrant parents who worked the factory line, and father of two. Tony is working hard to cut middle-class taxes, reduce costs, and improve public safety.*

## **Tony Vargas Is A Current State Senator, Former Science Teacher, Child Of Immigrant Parents Who Worked The Factory Line, And Father Of Two**

**Vargas Was A Nebraska State Senator.** “Tony Vargas, 39, a Nebraska state senator, is mounting a second challenge to four-term incumbent Rep. Don Bacon, a Republican, in Nebraska’s 2nd Congressional District.” [NBC News, [12/14/23](#)]

**Vargas Taught Middle School Science.** “Vargas, the youngest of three boys, was the first in his family to graduate from college, earning a bachelor's degree in biology/psychology and a master's degree in science. He taught seventh grade science in Brooklyn.” [NBC News, [12/14/23](#)]

**Vargas’ Parents Were Immigrants Who Worked On A Factory Line.** “It’s the same responsibility that my mom took on, like coming to this country and fighting for me and my brothers and being a role model. Working every single day, working double shifts with my dad, and both working on the factory line.” [Hola America News, [9/18/24](#)]

**Vargas Had Two Young Kids.** “Tony and his wife, Lauren, are raising their two young kids, Ava and Luca, in Omaha. They are proud parishioners of St. Frances Cabrini Church, where Tony and Lauren were married.” [Tony Vargas, Website, accessed [9/24/24](#)]

### **(NE-02) Message #8 Backup**

*In the state legislature Tony voted for two of the largest property tax cuts in Nebraska history, and was honored as a Taxpayer Defender.*

## **In The State Legislature Tony Voted For Two Of The Largest Property Tax Cuts In Nebraska History, And Was Honored As A Taxpayer Defender**

**Vargas Was Named A Taxpayer Defender By Americans For Prosperity.** “In Washington, Vargas said he would work across the aisle to find solutions with Republicans like he has in Nebraska’s state legislature. In the first legislative session, his votes for tax cuts got him the name of ‘Taxpayer Defender’ by Americans For Prosperity, a conservative financial think tank.” [Nebraska Public Media, [10/27/22](#)]

- **Vargas Got This Title By Voting For Tax Cuts In The Nebraska Legislature.** “In Washington, Vargas said he would work across the aisle to find solutions with Republicans like he has in Nebraska’s state legislature. In the first legislative session, his votes for tax cuts got him the name of ‘Taxpayer Defender’ by Americans For Prosperity, a conservative financial think tank.” [Nebraska Public Media, [10/27/22](#)]
- **Vargas Voted For LB 644.** [LB644, [5/19/21](#)]
  - **This Legislation Would “Increased Transparency For Impacted Political Subdivisions To Raise Their Property Tax Levies.”** “LB 644 adopts the Property Tax Request Act for the purpose of increased transparency for impacted political subdivisions to raise their property tax levies. The bill required public notifications and hearings whenever the need for justification is necessary to raise the property tax over the previous years.” [Americans for Prosperity, accessed [9/24/24](#)]

- **Vargas Voted For LB 408.** LB408 was a bill to, “A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to property taxes; to amend sections 77-1601 and 77-1776, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 77-1601.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020; to adopt the Property Tax Request Act; to change provisions relating to property tax requests; to harmonize provisions; to provide an operative date; and to repeal the original sections.” [LB408, [4/22/21](#)]
  - **This Legislation Would Limit The Annual Increase In Property Taxes, Excluding Approved Bonds To 3 %.** “LB 408 would limit the annual increase in property taxes, excluding approved bonds, for all political subdivisions to three percent.” [Americans for Prosperity, accessed [9/24/24](#)]

**Vargas Voted For LB 243 And LB754.** LB243 was a bill to, “A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Property Tax Credit Act; to amend section 77-4212, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022; to change the minimum amount of relief granted; and to repeal the original section.” And LB754 was a bill to, “A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to revenue and taxation; to amend sections 77-2715.03 and 77-2734.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022; to reduce individual and corporate income tax rates as prescribed; and to repeal the original sections.” [LB243, [5/25/23](#); LB754, [5/25/23](#)]

- **LB243 And LB754 Were Labeled “Transformational” And “Historic” Income And Property Tax Law Relief Notice.** “Gov. Jim Pillen signed a pair of income and property tax relief bills into law Wednesday that he labeled ‘transformational’ and ‘historic.’ The governor signed Legislative Bills 243 and 754 at a ceremony surrounded by lawmakers, agriculture and business leaders, representatives from conservative advocacy organizations and others.” [Omaha World Herald, [5/31/23](#)]

**Vargas Voted For LB34.** LB34 was a bill, “relating to revenue and taxation; to amend section, 77-1301, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022; to change the method of assessment of real property as prescribed; and to repeal the original section.” [LB34, [8/20/24](#)]

- **LB34 Would Front Relief By \$750 Million To Reduce 2024 Property Tax Statements.** “The Nebraska Department of Revenue (DOR) is providing information on property tax relief changes resulting from a new credit through the passage of LB 34 (2024). The bill frontloads the credit of 30% of school district taxes paid automatically by reducing property tax statements instead of requiring the taxpayer to claim it as a refundable income tax credit. The total amount of the frontloaded relief is \$750 million that will reduce 2024 property tax statements.” [Nebraska Department of Revenue, [9/6/24](#)]

## (NE-02) Message #9 Backup

*Don Bacon doesn't have the backbone to do what is right for Nebraska. Bacon supports banning all abortions with no exceptions for rape, incest, or the woman's life. Bacon even supported politicians who would allow states to monitor women's pregnancies and prosecute women for getting an abortion.*

### Bacon Supports Banning All Abortions With No Exceptions For Rape, Incest, Or The Woman's Life

**2021: Bacon Co-Sponsored The Life At Conception Act.** On May 14, 2021, Bacon co-sponsored HR 1011, the Life At Conception Act, which “declares that the right to life guaranteed by the Constitution is vested in each human being at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other

moment at which an individual comes into being. Nothing in this bill shall be construed to authorize the prosecution of any woman for the death of her unborn child.” The bill was read twice and referred to House Judiciary. [H.R. 1011, Introduced [2/11/21](#)]

- **Cedar Rapids Gazette: The Life At Conception Act “Aims To Block Abortions At All Stages” And “Does Not Indicate Any Exceptions In Cases Of Rape, Incest Or When The Pregnant Person Is At Risk.”** “This legislation is a personhood bill, one of many proposals over the years that aims to block abortions at all stages by legally recognizing all stages of human development as persons. The bill defines human beings protected under this measure as those ‘at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being.’” [Cedar Rapids Gazette, [7/11/22](#)]
- **The Life At Conception Act Would Enact A Nationwide Abortion Ban.** “The Life at Conception Act is fewer than 300 words, but its language leaves little room for ambiguity on abortion...Put simply: “It would be a nationwide abortion ban,” said Mary Ziegler, a professor at UC Davis School of Law who studies reproductive rights. Even California, which has positioned itself as a haven for abortion rights, would be affected. [Los Angeles Times, [8/29/22](#)]
- **2019: Bacon Co-Sponsored The Life At Conception Act.** On January 16, 2019, Bacon co-sponsored HR 616, the Life At Conception Act, which sought “To implement equal protection under the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person.” The bill was read introduced in the House and referred to the House Committee On The Judiciary. [H.R. 616, [1/16/19](#)]
- **2017: Bacon Co-Sponsored The Life At Conception Act.** On January 24, 2017, Bacon co-sponsored HR 616, the Life At Conception Act, which “declares that the right to life guaranteed by the Constitution is vested in each human being at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual comes into being. Nothing in this bill shall be construed to authorize the prosecution of any woman for the death of her unborn child.” The bill was read introduced in the House and referred to the House Committee On The Judiciary [H.R. 681, [1/24/17](#)]

## **Bacon Even Supported Politicians Who Would Allow States To Monitor Women’s Pregnancies And Prosecute Women For Getting An Abortion**

**2016, 2020: Bacon Endorsed Trump Twice.** “Bacon twice endorsed Trump.” [Nebraska Examiner, [10/10/23](#)]

**2024: Bacon Said He Would Support Trump If He Wins The Nomination.** “U.S. Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., who has drawn two primary challengers since saying he would not support former President Donald Trump during the GOP presidential primary, told local Republicans on Tuesday that he will support whoever wins the GOP nomination against President Joe Biden, including Trump.” [1011 NOW, [1/24/24](#)]

**Bacon Went “All-In For Trump” At February 2020 Rally Where He Served As A Trump Campaign Surrogate.** “[T]he crowd thundered approval for Rep. Don Bacon when he took the mic. The affable Republican from Nebraska went all-in for Trump, one of 80 surrogates the Trump campaign sent to Iowa caucuses. Bacon touted Trump’s record on trade and the economy and criticized ‘Speaker Pelosi’ and the Democrats’ ‘radical socialist agenda.’” [Omaha World-Herald, [2/4/20](#)]

**Trump Said He Would Let Red States Monitor Women’s Pregnancies And Prosecute Those Who Violate Abortion Bans.** “Trump told me, he would be willing to build migrant detention camps and deploy the U.S. military, both at the border and inland. He would let red states monitor women’s pregnancies and prosecute those who violate abortion bans.” [Time, [8/30/24](#)]

## (NE-02) Message #10

*Bacon also supported policies that hurt Nebraska families’ pocketbooks, like raising taxes on middle-class families while cutting taxes for multi-millionaires and big corporations and trying to repeal health protections for those with pre-existing conditions.*

### **Bacon Also Supported Policies That Hurt Nebraska Families’ Pocketbooks, Like Raising Taxes On Middle-Class Families While Cutting Taxes For Multi-Millionaires And Big Corporations...**

**Bacon Voted For Final Passage Of The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act By Concurring With A Senate Amendment.** In December 2017, Bacon voted for: “Brady, R-Texas, motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the tax overhaul that would revise the federal income tax system by: lowering the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent; lowering individual tax rates through 2025; limiting state and local deductions to \$10,000 through 2025; decreasing the limit on deductible mortgage debt through 2025; and creating a new system of taxing U.S. corporations with foreign subsidiaries. Specifically, it would repeal personal exemptions and would roughly double the standard deduction through 2025. It would raise the child tax credit to \$2,000 through 2025, would repeal the alternative minimum tax for corporations and provide for broader exemptions to the tax for individuals through 2025. It would double individual exemptions to the estate tax and gift tax through 2025, and would establish a new top tax rate for "pass-through" business income through 2025. It would effectively eliminate the penalty for not purchasing health insurance under the 2010 health care overhaul law in 2019. It would also open portions of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling.” The motion was passed 224-201. [HR 1, [Vote #699](#), 12/20/17; CQ Floor Votes, [12/20/17](#)]

- **The Tax Cut And Jobs Act Would Reduce Federal Top Corporate Income Tax Rate From 35 Percent To 21 Percent.** “The Tax Cut and Jobs Act (TCJA) reduced the federal top corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent, bringing the combined US federal and state rates to about the average for most other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, and eliminated the graduated corporate rate schedule.” [Tax Policy Center, accessed [6/10/24](#)]
- **The Trump Tax Law Was “Skewed To The Rich,” Such As Households With Incomes In The Top 1 Percent.** “As this debate unfolds, policymakers and the public should understand that the 2017 Trump tax law: Was skewed to the rich. Households with incomes in the top 1 percent will receive an average tax cut of more than \$60,000 in 2025, compared to an average tax cut of less than \$500 for households in the bottom 60 percent, according to the Tax Policy Center (TPC).” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/13/24](#)]

**Bacon Voted Against Passage Of The American Rescue Plan Act.** In February 2021, Bacon voted against: “Passage of the fiscal 2021 budget reconciliation bill, as amended, comprising a coronavirus relief package that would provide roughly \$1.9 trillion in funding to further address the health and economic effects of COVID-19, including approximately \$350 billion in direct aid to state and local governments; \$47.8 billion for testing and contact tracing; \$168 billion to assist educational institutions;

and \$50 billion to assist small businesses. It would extend and increase federal unemployment compensation benefits for 24 weeks and increase the weekly amount to \$400; provide tax rebates of \$1,400 for individuals with incomes of \$75,000 or less; extend or expand a number of employer and individual tax credits, including credits to subsidize health insurance premiums; and gradually increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Among other provisions, the bill would provide \$195.3 billion for direct assistance to states and \$130.2 billion for local governments; \$128.6 billion through fiscal 2023 for an Education Department elementary and secondary school emergency relief fund and \$39.6 billion for grants to higher education institutions, including to provide emergency financial aid; and continue the 15% increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits through September 2021. It would provide \$47.8 billion for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing; \$7.5 billion for vaccine administration and distribution; and \$6.1 billion for vaccine and therapeutic development, manufacturing and procurement. It would require Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program to fully cover the cost of COVID-19 vaccines. It would expand eligibility in 2021 and 2022 for federal tax subsidies toward Affordable Care Act marketplace insurance premiums, including to fully cover premium costs for individuals earning up to 150% of the federal poverty level and cap premiums at 8.5% of household income. It would provide \$50 billion for small business assistance, including \$25 billion for restaurants. It would provide \$30.5 billion for transit, \$18 billion for airline and aviation manufacturing industry payroll support; and \$4 billion for Agriculture Department pandemic-related assistance. It would incrementally increase the federal minimum wage annually to reach \$15 per hour in 2025, including for tipped workers, teens and workers with disabilities. It would create a program to provide financial assistance to multiemployer pension plans.” The bill passed by a vote of 219-212. [HR 1319, [Vote #49](#), 2/27/21; CQ, [2/27/21](#)]

- **The American Rescue Plan Provided \$1,400 Direct Payments, Aid To State And Local Governments, Schools, And Small Businesses, An Expanded Child Tax Credit, And Vaccine Distribution Funds.** “President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act into law on Thursday, finalizing an early policy victory that will send much-needed aid to millions of Americans still struggling from the COVID-19 pandemic. [...] The American Rescue Plan provides \$1,400 direct payments to individuals making up to \$75,000 annually, \$350 billion in aid to state and local governments and \$14 billion for vaccine distribution. The bill also provides \$130 billion to elementary, middle and high schools to assist with safe reopening. [...] It includes an additional \$300 billion in weekly jobless benefits through September and an expanded tax credit of up to \$3,600 per child, initially distributed in monthly installments. The child tax credit could raise 4 million children out of poverty, according to an analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. More than \$50 billion will be distributed to small businesses, including \$7 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program. The bill also provides \$25 billion for relief for small and mid-sized restaurants, which have suffered significantly during the pandemic.” [CBS News, [3/12/21](#)]

## ...And Trying To Repeal Health Protections For Those With Pre-Existing Conditions

**Bacon On The American Health Care Act: “I’ve Changed My Vote From ‘Yes’ To ‘Hell Yes.’”**  
“Abandoning negotiations, President Donald Trump late Thursday demanded a make-or-break vote on health care legislation today in the House, threatening to leave the Affordable Care Act in place and move on to other issues if the vote fails. The risky move, part gamble and part threat, was presented to GOP lawmakers behind closed doors Thursday night after a long and intense day that saw a planned vote on the health care bill scrapped as the legislation remained short of votes amid cascading negotiations among conservative lawmakers, moderates and others. [...] As Bacon emerged from the meeting, he said it included great speeches calling for unity. He reiterated his strong support for the GOP bill. ‘I’ve changed my vote, from ‘yes’ to ‘hell, yes,’” Bacon said.” [Associated Press, [3/24/17](#)]

**Bacon Voted For Beginning The Process Of Repealing Affordable Care Act.** In January 2017, Bacon voted for: “Adoption of the concurrent resolution that includes reconciliation instructions for the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees as well as the Senate Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committees to develop legislation to reduce the deficit by at least \$1 billion each over a 10-year period by January 27, 2017, which is expected to repeal parts of the 2010 health care law. The concurrent resolution also would set broad spending and revenue targets over the next 10 years. It would allow \$3.3 trillion in new budget authority for fiscal 2017.” The resolution was adopted 227-198. [S Con Res 3, [Vote #58](#), 1/13/17; CQ Floor Votes, [1/13/17](#)]

- **The Vote “Began The Process Of Dismantling The Affordable Care Act” By Allowing Republicans To Use Budget Reconciliation To Roll Back The Law.** “The House of Representatives began the process of dismantling the Affordable Care Act on Friday, approving a budget resolution on a mostly party line vote. The vote was 227-198. The Senate passed the measure earlier this week. It allows Republicans on Capitol Hill to use a process known as ‘budget reconciliation’ to roll back major parts of the health care law. Top Republican leaders are also saying they plan to move to replace Obamacare along the same track, but they are still struggling to come up with the details on how it will work.” [CNN, [1/3/17](#)]

**Bacon Said He Would Vote For A Repeal And Then Work On A Replacement Of The ACA.** “Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., campaigned last year in part on repealing the ACA. He narrowly defeated incumbent Democrat Brad Ashford in the Omaha area’s 2<sup>nd</sup> District. Bacon said recently that while the law has helped some people, more have been hurt. He said he will vote for repeal and then work on the replacement.” [North Platte Telegraph, 1/13/17]

**Omaha World-Herald: Bacon Wanted To “Scrap Obamacare.”** “Bacon wants to scrap Obamacare and raise the retirement age on workers who are currently in their 30s or 40s.” [Omaha World-Herald, 10/15/16]

**American Health Care Act Allows Insurers To Charge Older Customers Five Times More Than Younger Adults.** “Raises premiums for older people. The Affordable Care Act limited insurers from charging older customers more than three times what they charge younger adults. The House bill would raise that to five times. This may enable younger consumers to find cheaper coverage, but older policyholders would face higher rates.” [Huffington Post, [3/6/17](#)]

**Politifact Found That AHCA “Would Weaken Protections” For Those With Pre-Existing Conditions, “Would Allow States To Give Insurers The Power To Charge People Significantly More.”** “An ad by the American Action Network says that under the American Health Care Act ‘people with pre-existing conditions are protected.’ The only kernel of truth here is that the amendment has language that states insurers can’t limit access to coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions. However, the ad omits that the House GOP health plan would weaken protections for these patients. The legislation would allow states to give insurers the power to charge people significantly more if they had a pre-existing condition. While Republicans point to the fact that those patients could get help through high-risk pools, experts question their effectiveness. Current law does not allow states to charge people with pre-existing conditions significantly more. We rate this claim Mostly False.” [Politifact, [5/24/17](#)]