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[CWA Legislative Department](#)

[States](#)

[News](#)

[Fact Sheets](#)

[Congressional Scorecard](#)

[Activist Tools](#)

[Links](#)

[Home](#) > [News](#) > Republican Leaders Once Again Promote Offshoring

Republican Leaders Once Again Promote Offshoring

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By David B. Martin

Millions of jobs have been lost to offshoring. No job classification is safe and Republican leaders have once again claimed that offshoring is good for the American economy. While visiting India, President Bush once again told the public that he and the Republican leaders in Congress support corporations that offshore jobs that results in increased unemployment, lower wages and destroys communities.

Republican leaders justify this ridiculous economic policy by stating that the jobs that are going do not matter to the economy. The funny thing is that these are the very jobs that the "free traders" in Congress said would be created after NAFTA was passed.

What makes this latest endorsement of offshoring by Republican leaders like the Bush administration most fascinating is the hypocrisy with which they justify offshoring. In the state of the union, Bush said that we need to spend more on improving math and science education. The Bush administration then delivered a proposed budget to Congress that cuts overall funding to the Department of Education by 6.4% and includes cuts to education programs like Upward Bound; a program which seeks to interest more students in science and math. Another onerous cut is to educational opportunities for members of the armed services returning from Iraq.

While the president was in India promoting the corporate offshoring agenda on behalf of Republican leaders in Congress he said the following:

"But the fundamental question is, how does a government or society react to that? And it's basically one of two ways. One is to say, losing jobs is painful, therefore, let's throw up protectionist walls. And the other is to say, losing jobs is painful, so let's make sure people are educated so they can find — fill the jobs of the 21st century."

This back-peddling and lip service provides the most valuable piece of information we could ask for out of Republican leaders. They don't have a clue on how to drive an economy that benefits all people and will say anything to get a vote. They're counting on people not educating themselves about these issues and just taking politicians at their word. When their words and actions conflict as much as the current Republican leadership in Congress and the White House, one is left with only one solution; it's time to introduce these leaders what offshoring really feels like.