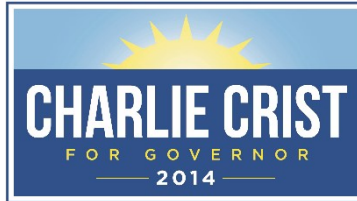


A circular icon with a dark blue background and a white outline of the state of Florida. The icon is positioned to the left of the main text.

FAIR SHOT FLORIDA

Charlie Crist's middle class jobs
and opportunity plan

Charlie Crist for Governor
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Friends,

Our Florida is a special place, blessed with extraordinary natural gifts and a can-do optimism that earn us our moniker as *the Sunshine State*. A place where if you play by the rules and work hard, you can do anything! But our current governor, Rick Scott, has a far different view of Florida. He believes helping a select few – the special-interest class – is his job and the rest of us should feel lucky if a few crumbs fall off the table.

I believe *everyone* deserves a seat at the table and that Florida's economy works best when we build from the middle class out, not the top down.

My plan is to invest in Florida's middle class, expand opportunity, and give every Floridian a fair shot at success. To build an economy that helps small business-owners but also invests in our workforce, so that we attract the kinds of high-wage industries that make it easier for people to make ends meet.

When I was last governor, during the greatest recession in our nation's history, I saw the kind of economic anxiety that, today, is still impacting too many families. That's why I governed not as a partisan ideologue, but as a Floridian.

Things couldn't be more different today. The crew in charge is governing from the fringes, not caring about everyday people but only about their cronies.

That is why I am running. I want to return your government to the people and make it start working for you in ways that are meaningful and fair.

Please take a look at this jobs and opportunity plan, because it is *your* plan.

Let me know if you have some ideas that I should know about. You can email me at Charlie@charliecrist.com.

Thanks for your interest and your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Crist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Fair Shot Florida

Charlie Crist's Middle Class Jobs and Opportunity Plan

Charlie Crist has always worked across party lines to create jobs. As State Senator and Attorney General, he fought the big utilities to keep electric rates low for consumers and small businesses. As Governor during the worldwide financial crisis, he crossed the aisle to advocate for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which kept 20,000 Florida teachers in the classroom.

Charlie understands that in order for Florida's economy to succeed over the long term, we have to make it fairer for the middle class. We need to build a state where it's easier for small businesses to succeed and create jobs, and we must expand opportunity so that every Floridian has a fair shot at success.

Right now, the scales are tipped in favor of those who pay for influence. And that's wrong.

With Rick Scott as Governor, only the wealthy and big corporations get ahead. He has given billions in tax breaks and contracts to corporations and donors, refusing to make the investments that are critical to growing our economy and creating good jobs:

"In three years Scott has done more harm than any other modern governor"

[*Tampa Bay Times*, Editorial, [02/28/2014](#)]

- **He cut public education, Florida's best long-term investment** - Rick Scott cut \$1.3 billion from public schools in his very first year in office, but that was just a start. Scott *tried* to cut nearly \$5 billion from K-12 education -- and that's on top of slashing Bright Futures scholarships, and admitting that if given the chance, he would have let 20,000 teachers lose their jobs. Any good businessperson knows that education is the best long-term investment we can make in Florida's economic future. Our prospects are brightest when our children are getting the education they need to compete in the global economy.

- **He pledged \$266 million in tax giveaways and other incentives for promises of 45,000 jobs, but only 4% of those jobs have been created.**¹ In December 2013 the *Tampa Bay Times* and *Miami Herald* conducted an in-depth analysis of Rick Scott's attempts at job creation and discovered that he came up woefully short.² According to their review of the Scott Administration's own data, Scott made 342 job-creation deals comprising \$266 million in

"Gov. Rick Scott has staked his political future on his ability to bring jobs to Florida, but the first comprehensive review of his efforts shows few successes and hundreds of unfulfilled promises."

[*Tampa Bay Times*, 12/6/2013]

various giveaways since he took office in January 2011. The results have been abysmal: of the 45,258 new jobs that Scott promised, fewer than 2,000 have been created.³

And it gets worse – even if those jobs should eventually materialize, they wouldn't make up for the jobs that have been lost since Rick Scott became Governor. Between January 2011 and November 2013, Florida companies with more than 100 employees reported 49,163 layoffs.⁴

To read the excellent *Times/Herald* report on Rick Scott's failed jobs record, click [here](#).

- **He refused to invest in Florida's high-speed rail, which would have created 60,000 jobs.** In an infamous move shortly after assuming office, Rick Scott refused \$2.4 billion of our own federal taxpayer dollars to develop and operate high-speed rail service between Orlando and Tampa. The project would have created nearly 60,000 direct jobs and would have led to a new age in Florida's transportation infrastructure.
- **He refused to extend healthcare coverage to Floridians, which would have created 121,000 jobs.** At one point, it appeared Rick Scott might actually do the right thing and extend access to healthcare coverage for Floridians. But the Tea Party reeled him back in, and he has been silent on the issue ever since. According to the Florida Hospital Association, bringing back \$51 billion of our own federal taxpayer dollars to expand access to healthcare would create more than 121,000 jobs and generate \$5.41 billion in tax revenue for local and state governments over a 10-year period.⁵

"[Rick Scott] shows remarkably little empathy for Floridians and their everyday struggles."

[*Tampa Bay Times*, Editorial, 02/28/2014]

The Crist vision is different. Charlie believes Florida's economy works best when we build it from the middle class out, not the top down. He understands that 99 percent of businesses are small businesses⁶ – homegrown businesses right here in our state, creating jobs right here in our communities. He knows that the road to long term growth isn't paved with massive tax giveaways to lure a handful of jobs here, but rather by creating a pipeline of opportunity for our residents and small businesses.

Fair Shot Florida: Charlie Crist's Middle Class Jobs and Opportunity Plan is Governor Crist's plan to grow Florida's economic engine by creating good-paying jobs and growing the middle class. The first part of *Fair Shot Florida*, called *Investing in Our People*, is below.

PART 1 - INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

Our business leaders cite the quality, talent and skills of their employees as the foundation for their companies' success. Florida's workforce is its most important economic asset, but as a state we are not doing enough to prepare Floridians for the new global economy. As Governor, Charlie will invest in Florida's people by doing the following:

a) Making our children a priority again by restoring the devastating cuts that Rick Scott made to our public schools.

Each generation of Floridians has a fundamental obligation to help children obtain the skills they need to launch their careers and live prosperous, productive lives. Protecting and improving our public schools is one of the most important duties for our Governor.

Rick Scott has failed to ensure our children receive a high-quality education. Judging from his actions, he simply doesn't consider it a priority. Gov. Scott cares so little about education that he didn't even attend his own education summit, but he did take the time to go to a Tea Party Convention that same week.⁷

During his first year in office, he slashed education by \$542 per student for a total of \$1.3 billion: nearly 8% of the entire education budget.⁸ Amazingly, he tried to cut it even further. According to the *Tampa Bay Times / Miami Herald Politifact*, if Rick Scott had had his way, he would have cut our children's education "between \$3.3 billion and \$4.8 billion, with per-student funding to decrease by 10 percent".⁹

"[Rick Scott] is the tin man as governor, a chief executive who shows no heartfelt connection to the state, appreciation for its values or compassion for its residents."

[*Tampa Bay Times*, Editorial, [02/28/2014](#)]

But the education cuts weren't limited to just kindergarten through the twelfth grade. Rick Scott also slashed pre-kindergarten by \$20 million, or by \$180 for every four-year-old child.¹⁰ Cutting pre-kindergarten is inexcusable considering that every dollar invested in Pre-K provides more than \$7 in benefits to a child's future, such as "greater school success, reduced crime and delinquency, and increased earnings over a lifetime".¹¹

Rick Scott's drastic cuts brought Florida's contribution to education to its lowest level since 2003.¹² The damage was extensive, and students, teachers, and schools were hurt throughout the entire state:

Examples of How Rick Scott's \$1.3 Billion in Education Cuts Hurt Students, Teachers, and Schools¹³

Statewide

- Cut overall funding by \$1.3 billion, or \$542 per student
- Cut funds for pre-kindergarten by about \$20 million, an average of about \$180 per four-year-old student
- Increased the average size of pre-kindergarten classes to 20
- Media throughout the state announced the elimination of 5,000 teachers and education personnel in Florida's schools

Broward County

- 44 elementary schools cut art
- 20 schools eliminated music
- 20 schools eliminated physical education

Duval County

- Reduced art, music, & physical education classes
- Canceled purchase of science texts
- Cut back sports programs

Hernando County

- Cut language and vocational courses
- Cut "exceptional education" teachers and staff
- Cut driver's education
- Instituted pay-to-play fees for sports: \$35 for first sport, \$20 for second

Hillsborough County

- Enacted amendment to allow more courses to exceed enrollment caps

Miami-Dade County

- Cut after-school programs for up to 4,500 young children
- Cut eligibility for 7- and 8-year-olds for state subsidized afterschool programs
- Increased class sizes for Advanced Placement and other "college-prep" courses from 25 to more than 30

Pinellas County

- At one high school, class sizes for non-core subjects increased from 25 to 30 students, for AP classes from 25 to 33 students
- One high school eliminated drama and culinary courses and shifted Latin to online only
- Eliminated transportation to magnet school and career academy programs

Seminole County

- Closed Longwood Elementary School

Volusia County

- Closed several elementary schools
- Eliminated 9th-grade sports

Figure 1. Source: "Starving America's Public Schools: How Budget Cuts and Policy Mandates are Hurting our Nation's Students", Campaign for America's Future / National Education Association. 2011.

Charlie Crist knows that high-quality education is one of the most important priorities for Floridians and their families, and that you pay for a cheap education forever. That is why **during Gov. Crist's first term, Florida made tremendous gains in the quality and funding of education:**

- **For every year that Charlie Crist was Governor, he funded education at higher levels than Rick Scott has.** When adjusting for inflation, every year of Gov. Crist's per student spending on education was higher than any of Rick Scott's four years.¹⁴ Even during the worst of the global recession, Gov. Crist still found a way to invest in Florida's children.

"When you account for inflation... Crist's per-pupil spending outpaces Scott's for every year."

[Tampa Bay Times / Miami Herald Politifact, 7/20/14]

- **Florida's school system was named 5th best in the country.** According to *Education Week*, America's education news source of record, Florida's education system made tremendous strides during Gov. Crist's term, earning a rank of fifth best in the country.¹⁵ Once Rick Scott became Governor and cut education, Florida's rank fell out of the top ten.¹⁶
- **Florida achieved a historic high in per-student spending on education under Gov. Crist.** When Charlie was Governor, Florida's per-student funding reached an all-time high of \$7,126.33.¹⁷ And if inflation were taken into account, that amount would equal \$8,176 per student in 2014 dollars, which is a staggering \$1,200 more than what Rick Scott is spending for our children's education.¹⁸
- **Gov. Crist signed legislation requiring Physical Education in schools.** To combat the growing epidemic of child obesity, in 2007 Charlie signed legislation that required elementary schools to provide 30 minutes of physical education each day, and 150 minutes each week.¹⁹

Once elected in November, Gov. Crist will undo the damage done by Rick Scott. He will reverse Rick Scott's education cuts by returning per-child funding back to \$7,126.33, a total increase of \$515 million to the K-12 budget.²⁰ That's a big number, but it will take deep investment to undo Rick Scott's damage to education.

After his election, Charlie Crist will reverse Rick Scott's drastic cuts to education, restoring it to the record levels it was when Charlie was Governor.

Gov. Crist will also restore the cuts that Rick Scott made to pre-kindergarten. He'll raise the per-child funding level to at least \$2,562, the amount it was when he was Governor.²¹

This will cost at least \$20 million, but Charlie knows that Pre-K is one of the best long-term investments we can make for our children.

Charlie Crist will make it happen because it is his top priority. Thanks to the national economic recovery, this year the state had \$2.6 billion in new revenue, but Governor Scott and the legislature allocated less than 7% of that revenue for K-12 education.²² **Funding education isn't**

a revenue problem: it's a priorities problem. Rick Scott had a chance to restore funding for our children's education, but he instead chose to expand tax giveaways for his wealthy cronies.

Funding education isn't a revenue problem; it's a priorities problem. As the People's Governor, Charlie Crist will make Florida's children a priority again.

As the People's Governor, Charlie will make Florida's children a priority again. He will undo Rick Scott's cuts to public schools so our children will have the skills they need to be successful.

b) Create an "Opportunity Pipeline," bringing our schools and businesses together to give our students greater access to the career opportunities available to them.

Students drop out of high school or college for a number of reasons, such as the stress of financial issues or the difficulty of balancing school with commitments to family and jobs. But one of the main reasons is that our students can't see a clear, tangible connection between their academic studies and opportunities in Florida's labor market.

With this in mind, we need to do a better job of preparing our students for their next steps after graduating high school. On the day that any Florida student walks along the stage to receive her diploma, she should be 100% prepared for either starting college or directly starting a job. And every single graduate should have a well-defined career plan in place.

Unfortunately, many of our young people are not fully prepared when they enter the workforce. Too many Florida businesses must invest in remedial training for their incoming employees to be productive on the job. This costs time and money, hindering our success and making it harder for our state to attract new investment. We must form tighter partnerships between local businesses and our K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities to ensure that our students are learning the skills needed to start on Day One at the job. Regardless of whether a high school graduate goes on to college, he or she should have a much greater understanding of the business world and what it takes to have a successful career.

Charlie understands this, and during his first term as Governor he pushed for \$2 billion in workforce investments, including over \$800 million for career education and employment services and \$6.6 million for the Ready to Work program.²³

Once elected in November, Charlie will work with our school districts, our local business communities, regional workforce boards, community colleges and universities to develop an "**Opportunity Pipeline**" -- a comprehensive strategy that promotes a stronger, more vibrant connection between education and business at the regional and local levels.

Charlie believes that local business and community leaders know more about their workforce needs than politicians in Tallahassee do. As such, he will help form **Regional Opportunity Planning Councils** that will include representatives from local businesses, education institutions, workforce boards and other parts of the

Gov. Crist's Opportunity Pipeline will promote a stronger, more vibrant connection between education and business at the regional and local levels.

community. These partnerships will develop strategies that work for their region and determine the best ways to:

1. **Identify and plan for the specific skills needed for their region.** Using skills gap analyses and competency modeling, the Regional Opportunity Councils can work closely with local business owners, workforce boards, and teachers to identify job skills needs and take steps to ensure those gaps are filled.
2. **Support and expand career and technical education programs in our community colleges.** Florida's community colleges already play an essential role in adjusting to local industry and workforce needs in information technology, manufacturing, and other high-tech areas. The Regional Opportunity Councils will foster more collaboration than ever before, giving communities a greater voice in the vocational and technical programs that will prepare students for the high quality, high wage jobs that await them.
3. **Incorporate more internships, apprenticeships, and hands-on learning** in the targeted skill sets that coincide with a region's needs. Doing this right will require a much greater partnership from local business leaders, but the benefits are significant. Internships, apprenticeships, and other types of on-the-job training can complement high-quality coursework as invaluable preparation for students who are trying to choose a career field. Gov. Crist knows that when students are excited about their prospective careers, they're much more likely to remain in school and excel in their studies.
4. **Incorporate entrepreneurship into both high school and higher education curricula.** As students pursue their interests and determine their potential career paths, our schools should also introduce them to entrepreneurship as a vocation. Whether or not these students pursue college degrees – and regardless of which profession they choose – students who learn entrepreneurial skills are much more likely to think creatively and innovate.

Gov. Crist will work with the Regional Opportunity Planning Councils to encourage as much private funding as possible for the Opportunity Pipeline strategy. Many of Florida's industry and business leaders know that investing in our students now will pay large dividends once they enter the workforce.

c) **Making higher education and skills training more affordable.** Florida's future depends on the latest skills and training that our young people obtain from our universities, colleges, and career education institutions. Too often, however, earning a degree means incurring tens of thousands of dollars in both private and federal student loans that take a lifetime to pay off. Gov. Crist believes that when young people enter the workforce, they should be able to start their careers without being bogged down by crushing student debt. Once elected, Charlie will:

1. **Reverse Rick Scott's devastating cuts to Bright Futures by restoring funding to Gov. Crist's record levels.** Rick Scott's drastic cuts to education in 2011 were historic, but he didn't stop after his first year. Scott has cut Bright Futures

This year under Rick Scott, 50,000 fewer students will receive a Bright Futures scholarship than when Charlie Crist was Governor.

funding in each of the four years he has been Governor. Bright Futures funding has fallen 37%, and the program serves nearly 30% fewer students than it did during Charlie's first term.²⁴ To put it another way, after four years of Rick Scott's cuts to Bright Futures, 50,000 fewer students will receive a Bright Futures scholarship than when Charlie Crist was Governor.

Gov. Crist will restore Bright Futures to the record levels it was when he was Governor. To do so, Charlie will push the legislature to restore per student funding to at least \$2,533 and expand eligibility so that 180,000 students will receive Bright Futures scholarships – 50,000 more than what Rick Scott funded for this year.²⁵ It will cost at least \$190 million, but Charlie believes it's an essential part of undoing Rick Scott's cuts to education.²⁶

- 2. Create a loan forgiveness program for university and college students pursuing high-paying, high demand fields of study.** Gov. Crist knows that a highly skilled workforce is the key to a vibrant economy and that it's important to retain our best and brightest. As such, Charlie will work with the legislature to offer a new student loan forgiveness program for graduates with degrees that meet the job needs of the Regional Opportunity Planning Councils. Students who graduate from a state university or community college in certain fields – with a concentration in science, technology, engineering or mathematics – will have their student loans forgiven after the fifth year, provided they maintain employment in their field of study and have remained in Florida.

Charlie believes that local businesses and communities know what is best for their future economic growth, so he'll work with the Regional Opportunity Planning Councils to determine which degrees should be part of the loan forgiveness program.

- 3. Provide full tuition for teachers' STEM Master's degrees.** We must do more to retain quality teachers in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. For teachers who have taught in Florida for five years in one of these areas, Gov. Crist will work to provide free tuition for those teachers who pursue a Master's degree in their field of expertise and continue to teach in Florida.

Charlie also believes we must pay teachers what they're worth. When a teacher earns a Master's or Doctorate degree that makes them even more effective in teaching our children, they should be paid more. In 2011 Rick Scott signed legislation that removed salary increases for teachers with advanced degrees.²⁷ As Governor, Charlie will push to repeal this law so that teachers receive credit for the advanced degrees they have earned.

- 4. Create a student loan financing authority to help young adults refinance their student loan debt.** Gov. Crist believes that when young people enter the workforce, they should be able to start their careers without being bogged down by massive student loans. When Florida's college graduates have crushing, long-term student debt, it delays their purchases of homes, cars, and other important parts of middle-class life, undermining the state's economy.

More than half of Florida's college and university graduates carry student debt. Over the

past five years the individual debt amount has increased by as much as a third,²⁸ with an average of \$23,054 per borrower.²⁹ Florida has more than two million students who have taken on federal loans,³⁰ but private student loans often pose the greatest burden. Private loans, sometimes with interest rates as high as 12 percent, usually do not have the same deferment, income-based repayment, or loan forgiveness options that federal loans offer.³¹

In Wisconsin, state legislators have introduced an innovative proposal that would let borrowers refinance their student loans at lower interest rates.^{32,33} As Governor, Charlie will explore a similar approach, creating the Florida Student Loan Refinancing Authority. This new organization will assist qualified current borrowers by helping them refinance their loans at lower rates. Gov. Crist will issue bonds to refinance the loans -- and the bonds will be paid back by borrowers -- so no taxpayer dollars will be used for refinancing. In addition, the authority will help prospective borrowers make informed decisions by providing them with detailed information and counseling about their financing options, *before* they commit to loan agreements.

Helping young Floridians reduce their interest rates and monthly payments will give them more of the financial freedom they desperately need to start their careers. And when these young graduates have more discretionary income, they will be more likely to purchase cars, homes, and other goods and services that will boost Florida's economy.

5. **Expand need-based funding for college students.** Charlie believes that higher education is a transformational event for American families. When that first person in a family gets a college degree -- whether a parent or child -- higher education becomes the rule rather than the exception for everyone that follows. It opens the door of opportunity for lower income families forever. It also elevates Florida's entire workforce, making us more attractive to higher-wage industries.

Some of Florida's high educational institutions have developed innovative scholarship programs -- funded in part by private donations -- that help more low-income students and "first-in-the-family" students to attend college.

Started in 2011 with an original endowment of \$5 million, Miami-Dade College's American Dream scholarship covers the in-state portion of tuition for two years of courses and is "a vital safety net that picks up where other aid and scholarships leave off, ensuring that bright, qualified students have the means to continue their education."³⁴ Over the past three years, 10,000 students have received the American Dream scholarship.

The Florida Opportunity Scholars Program -- proposed by University of Florida President Bernie Machen in 2006 -- was established "to ensure that first generation students from low-income families have the resources they need to be academically and personally successful as undergraduate students at the University."³⁵

The program has been a great success and is partially funded through private contributions. UF has supported 2,914 scholars since the program started, and their graduation rate of 84% is significantly higher than the national average of 32% for students with similar backgrounds.³⁶ Machen Opportunity Scholars alumni now work for top organizations such

as Amazon, Ernst & Young, and Teach for America.

Charlie believes that every young Floridian should have a chance to succeed. As Governor, he will help universities and colleges adopt models like the American Dream and Machen Opportunity scholarships so that more Floridians have the opportunity to realize the American Dream, right here in Florida.

d) Immediately urging the Florida legislature to pass a minimum wage of \$10.10.

Charlie believes that Florida's workers deserve a fair wage for their hard work, and he is not alone. A recent poll showed that 73% of Floridians agree that we should raise the minimum wage.³⁷ While Rick Scott says the thought of raising the minimum wage makes him "cringe",³⁸ Charlie knows that raising the pay of low-wage workers improves

their productivity, their morale, and the quality of their work, while at the same time reducing turnover and supervisory costs. There are other reasons why passing a fair minimum wage makes good economic sense:

- **It will restore the purchasing power of Florida's minimum wage workers.** When Florida's minimum wage doesn't keep up with a rising cost of living, Floridians' purchasing power is eroded and families struggle even harder to pay for everyday necessities like food, clothing, rent, and utilities.

In 1968 Florida used the federal minimum wage of \$1.60 per hour. While that doesn't sound like much now, adjusted for inflation it is equal to \$10.94 in today's dollars. Florida's current minimum wage is \$7.93 – leaving minimum wage earners with 28% less purchasing power than their counterparts in 1968.

Put another way, in 1968 a full-time minimum wage worker earned about \$21,880 per year in 2014 dollars, while a worker today earns only \$15,860. When adjusted for inflation, today's full-time minimum wage worker in Florida has \$6,020 less per year than one in 1968.

"When I hear a politician say that we have to raise the minimum wage so working families can make ends meet, I cringe..."

Gov. Rick Scott, as reported by the *Tampa Bay Times*, 1/8/2014

Purchasing Power of the Minimum Wage in Florida (1968-2014)

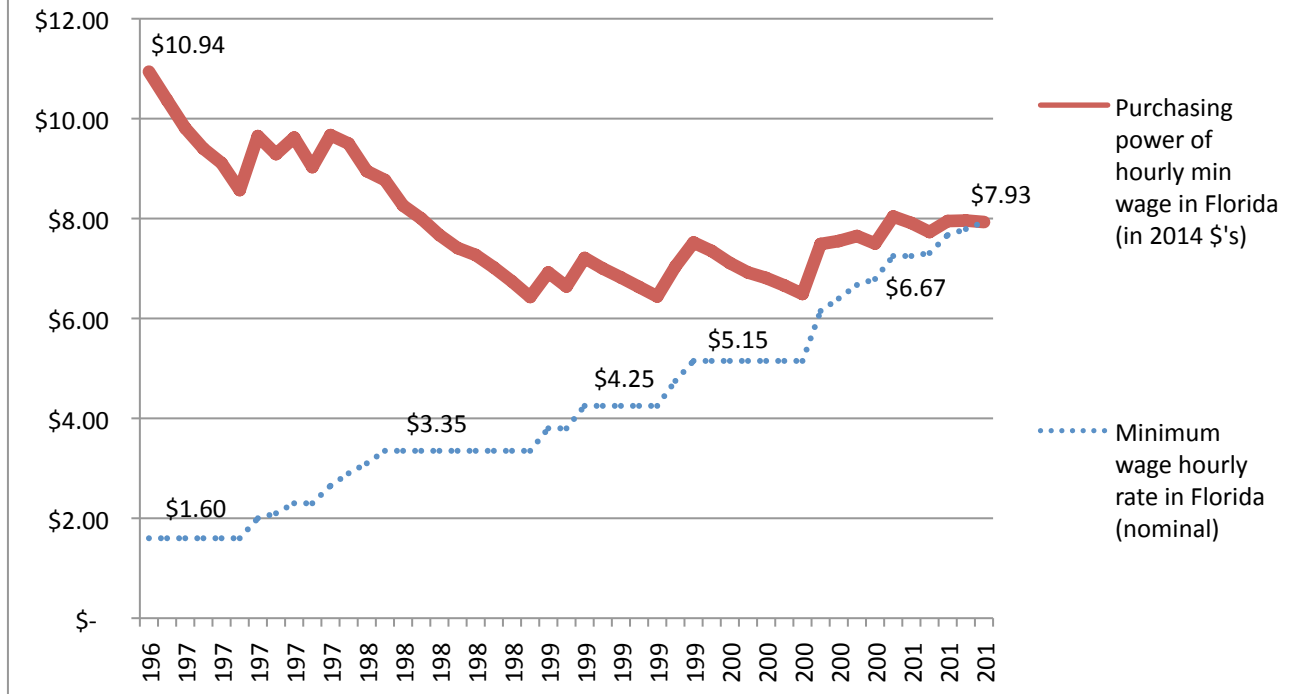


Figure 2. Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics³⁹; U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division^{40,41}. Florida Department of Economic Opportunity⁴².

- **It will provide an economic boost to nearly a quarter of Florida’s workforce.** Raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 will provide an economic boost to more than 1.3 million Floridians, or nearly one quarter of our workforce. The vast majority of these employees are not teenagers working in a part-time job after school, but adults who are struggling from paycheck to paycheck. More than 90% of minimum wage earners are 20 years old or older, 58% are working full-time, 500,000 of them are parents, and 55% are women.⁴³
- **It will have a negligible (if any) effect on job growth.** Opponents of increasing the minimum wage allege that it would be a “job killer”, but the economic evidence shows this simply isn’t the case. Exhaustive research based on 64 studies of minimum wage increases found “no discernible effect on employment”.⁴⁴ Another study that compared 288 pairs of counties with different minimum wages from 1990 to 2006 found “no adverse employment effects” associated with higher minimum wages.⁴⁵
- **It is supported by a majority of small business owners.** A March poll by Small Business Majority found that 57% of small businesses surveyed nationwide – including 61% of small business owners in the retail/restaurant industries – support raising the minimum wage. According to the report, “small [business] employers believe this would help boost customer demand at small businesses and grow the economy.”⁴⁶

- **It will reduce costs for social services programs.** Increasing the minimum wage will lift many families out of poverty, reducing costs for several public assistance programs. An increase of \$10.10, for example, will reduce Florida’s enrollment in the SNAP food stamp program by nearly 200,000, saving \$295 million.⁴⁷

So while Rick Scott cringes at the thought of raising the minimum wage, the evidence shows it will be a welcome boost to Florida’s economy. That is why passing a fair minimum wage is a key component of Gov. Crist’s Fair Shot Florida plan to grow our middle class.

e) Extending healthcare coverage.

Health care has always been a humanitarian issue, but because it occupies approximately 20% of state spending it is also a jobs and economic issue. A healthy workforce and the higher-wage workers that deliver health care are critical parts of any economy. After the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act in 2012, Florida had the chance to extend health coverage to more than a million of our fellow Floridians.⁴⁸ Over the next ten years, Florida would have received about \$51 billion in federal funding for the plan – it was an unprecedented opportunity. Not only would it have improved the health of Florida families, it would have also created thousands of jobs and allowed us to recoup billions of the hard-earned federal tax dollars that Floridians send to Washington.

Initially Rick Scott opposed expanding healthcare, but for a brief moment in February 2013 it appeared he might do the right thing. With much fanfare, he summoned reporters⁴⁹ to the Governor’s mansion and announced that “while the federal government is committed to paying 100 percent of the cost of new people in Medicaid, I cannot, in good conscience, deny the uninsured access to care. ...we must also be sensitive to the needs of the poorest and the weakest among us who struggle to access affordable, high-quality care.”⁵⁰

His good conscience did not last long. After Tea Party leaders like Everett Wilkinson lashed out, calling Gov. Scott “the Benedict Arnold to the patriot and tea party movement in Florida,” he buckled under their pressure and stood silent. Scott let the plan die in the legislature.⁵¹

Bending to the will of Tea Party extremists – and letting one million Floridians continue to go without access to affordable healthcare – is unforgivable.⁵² A recent study by *Health Affairs* concluded that three to six Floridians die each day due to our state’s failure to expand access to healthcare.⁵³ Rick Scott’s silence and lack of leadership is responsible for the deaths of thousands of Floridians.

“The state’s refusal to accept billions in federal money [for health care] illustrates how this governor ignores the needs of everyday residents.”

[*Tampa Bay Times*,
Editorial, 02/28/2014]

Charlie Crist has repeatedly stood up to ideological narrow-mindedness and has fought for what is right. As Governor, Charlie will work to expand access to affordable, quality healthcare because he knows that:

- **It will help up to one million Floridians obtain access to affordable, high-quality healthcare.** In March 2013 a legislative study determined that expanding access to healthcare under the new ARRA law would lead to the enrollment of about a million Floridians during the first four years. Since then, nearly 250,000 of the uninsured signed up for Medicaid upon learning they were previously eligible, and a more recent report by the Kaiser Family Foundation estimated that about 760,000 would benefit from the expanded access.⁵⁴
- **It will bring \$51 billion in federal funding over the first ten years.**⁵⁵ Florida has the second highest rate of uninsured in the country (23%), and about half of our uninsured are eligible for Medicaid under the expansion, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.⁵⁶ As such, Florida can recoup \$51 billion in federal funding for the first ten years. The federal government would pay 100% of the costs for the first three years, gradually sliding to 90% by 2020. After 2020, Florida will not be required to pay more than 10% of costs.
- **It will create more than 120,000 good-paying jobs.**⁵⁷ Expanding health care access to such a large number of people will not just create a healthier Florida, it will also create more than 120,000 good-paying jobs over the next ten years. As more Floridians obtain coverage, they are more likely to seek preventive care, such as seeing a doctor for a check-up or visit a clinic when they aren't feeling well. This will increase the demand for our healthcare and social services industries, which will in turn hire more doctors, nurses, healthcare administrators and other support personnel. A report sponsored by the Florida Hospital Association found that 121,945 jobs would be created over the next ten years, generating more than \$60 billion in wages, benefits, and proprietor income.⁵⁸ Employment impacts will be greatest in Miami-Dade (23,655 jobs), Broward (12,665 jobs), Palm Beach (8,455 jobs), Orange (8,019 jobs) and Hillsborough (7,377 jobs) counties.⁵⁹

It makes sense that greater access to affordable healthcare will lead to more jobs in the health services fields. But while a large portion of the jobs (about 40%) will come from healthcare, a majority will be created in non-healthcare related fields – and in some of Florida's other key industries – such as construction, finance, manufacturing, real estate, transportation and retail trade, among others.⁶⁰ These will also be high-paying jobs, with an average wage of \$52,246 – more than 20 percent higher than Florida's average salary under Rick Scott.⁶¹

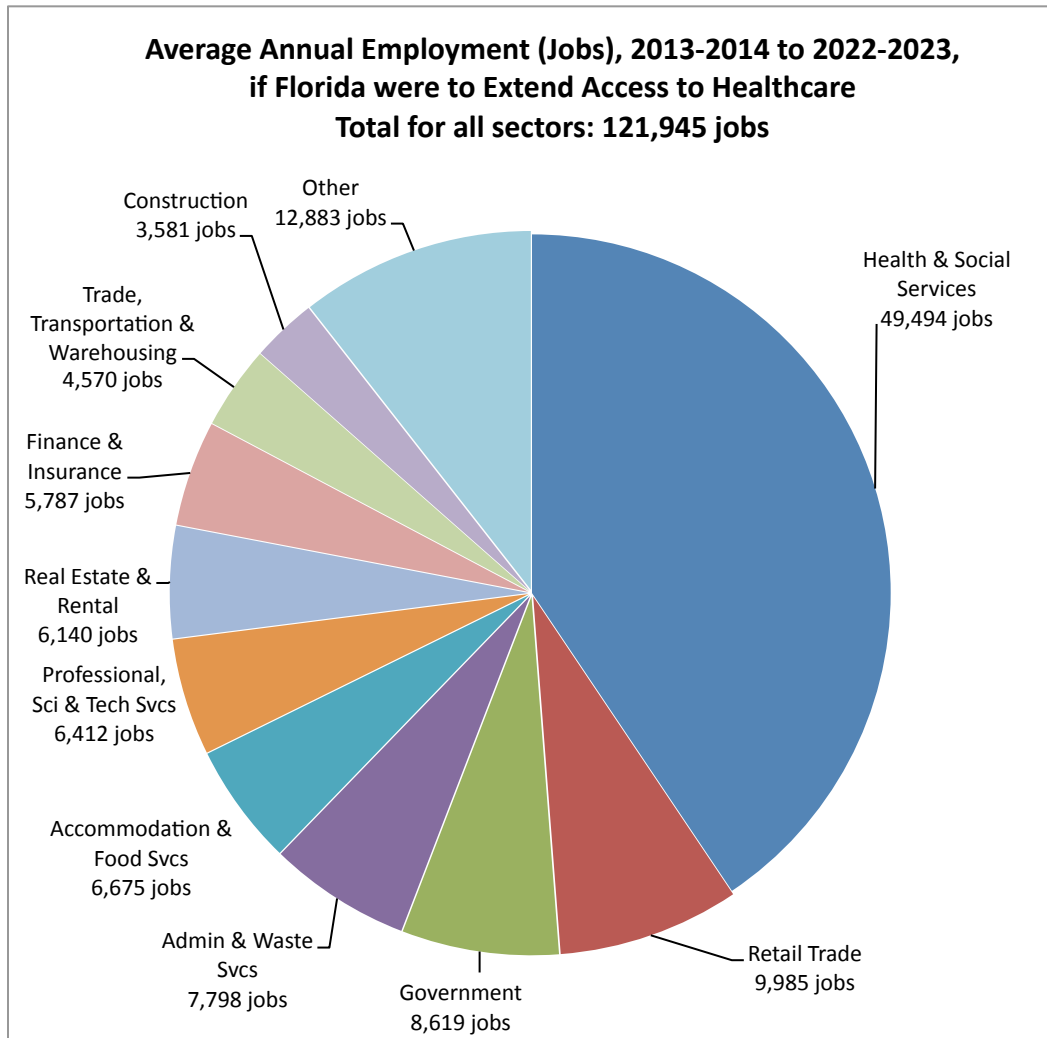


Figure 3. Source: Hodges and Rahmani, “Economic Impacts of Extending Health Care Coverage in Florida: Sponsored Project Report to the Florida Hospital Association”, University of Florida, Food & Resource Economics Department, March 28, 2013.

- **Taxpayers will pay less to expand coverage than to allow Floridians to go uninsured.** State officials have estimated that Florida would need to spend about \$3.5 billion over 10 years to bring in the \$51 billion in federal funds.⁶² But in a recent analysis by Florida’s Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) – part of Rick Scott’s *own* Administration – found that the state’s *savings* from healthcare expansion would be \$430 million a year, or \$4.3 billion over ten years.⁶³

So according to Rick Scott’s own agency, Florida would save about \$800 million over ten years, or \$80 million a year, by expanding access to quality healthcare.
- **It will generate \$5.41 billion in tax revenue for local and state governments.** Expanding access to healthcare in Florida is not only less expensive for taxpayers, it will also increase revenue for local and state governments by \$5.41 billion over ten years, or an average of \$541 million per year.⁶⁴

While Rick Scott's fear of the Tea Party prevents him from doing the right thing, Charlie will fight to expand access to quality, affordable healthcare for Florida's families. Other Governors around the country – both Democrats and Republicans – have taken action on behalf of their citizens, and Charlie will do the same once elected in November.

f) Committing to a “First Day of Fairness”.

Immediately after Governor Crist's inauguration on January 6, 2015, he will walk into the Historic Old Capitol and issue a series of executive orders designed to restore good government, expand opportunity so that every Floridian has a fair shot at success, and make it easier for small businesses to succeed and create jobs. This “First Day of Fairness” will include:

- **An Executive Order addressing Open Government.**

In 2006, Charlie Crist's first official act was to make the Governor's office the most open in Florida history by creating an office dedicated solely to promoting transparency in government. Despite signing an executive order that claimed to “continue to assure full and expeditious compliance with Florida's open government and public records laws,”⁶⁵ Rick Scott has done exactly the opposite since his election.

“Already a stark difference is apparent between Gov. Rick Scott's approach to Florida's Sunshine Laws and that of his predecessor, Gov. Charlie Crist, who enthusiastically endorsed open meetings and public records laws.”

[Tampa Bay Times editorial, 3/13/11]

Lloyd Dunkelberger of the Herald-Tribune noted that “Scott's public records policy, while technically adhering to state law, contrasts sharply to that of former Gov. Charlie Crist and other current state executives, who have provided records more promptly and have imposed fewer fees.”⁶⁶

Dunkelberger also pointed out that “Under Scott's rules, it cost more to provide access to 1,100 emails from the governor's communications director than reporters paid for 24,000 pages of emails from another controversial public official, former Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska.”⁶⁷

Earlier this year, Rick Scott announced that the media and the public must now ask a state employee personally for records of any state business records conducted via private email accounts.⁶⁸ According to the First Amendment Foundation, the policy change effectively cripples the state's public records laws.⁶⁹ In addition, Scott's self-heralded “Sunburst” system, which was designed to give the public access to the emails of top staffers in the Governor's office, has hardly been updated in over a year. Melissa Sellers moved over from the Governor's office to become Scott's campaign manager in January 2014, but more than six months later the “Sunburst” site still listed her as a state employee.^{70,71}

Charlie Crist believes taxpayers have a right to know what is happening in their government without having to jump through hoops or pay exorbitantly for public records. That is why on the day of his inauguration, Charlie's very first official action will be to reverse Rick Scott's policies and restore transparency and openness to the Office of the Governor and the state agencies that report to him. This executive order will state that: (1) Official business, whether through private emails or texts, will be deemed public records, and will be retained as required by law.

The days of the Governor's office and his executive agencies conducting business out of the sunshine, through political appointees' personal email accounts, are over. (2) Agencies will be directed to produce public records at the lowest cost possible and will only charge for labor in excess of two hours, and (3) the Governor's Office of Open Government will be directed to advocate on behalf of the public in exercising its right to full and expeditious access to public records. It will not work to obstruct or hinder the public's access.

- **An Executive Order to support Florida businesses and Florida employees.** Charlie believes that contracts funded by our own tax dollars should go to Florida companies and Florida residents.

On his first day in office, Governor Crist will issue an executive order instructing his executive agencies to improve their contractor selection processes, so that state projects go to Florida businesses to the extent allowed by law. He'll also ensure that those contractors make every attempt to hire Floridians for the work they perform for the state. For the agencies under his purview, Gov. Crist will require contract provisions, consistent with legislation he signed as Governor, that (1) require state contractors to hire Florida workers whenever possible, and (2) require reporting on nonresident hiring.

Governor Crist believes that contracts funded by our own tax dollars should go to Florida companies and Florida residents.

- **An Executive Order addressing Equal Pay for Women.** Charlie believes that equal pay for women is not just an issue of fairness – it is an essential part of ensuring economic security for Florida's families and growing our state's economy.

Unfortunately, in many cases women continue to earn much less than men for the same work. In Florida, women on average are paid 83 cents for every dollar paid to men.⁷² Over the course of a year, a typical woman working full-time in Florida receives \$7,128 less on average than a male counterpart.⁷³

On average, women in Florida are paid \$7,128 less per year than men for the same type of work.

Rick Scott won't say whether he supports equal pay for women, but Charlie has been very clear in stating that he'll do everything he can to eliminate the wage gap between women and men.

In fact, on his first day as Governor, Charlie will instruct agencies to adopt new procedures that seek to eliminate wage discrimination within companies that do business with Florida's state government. To do this, he will sign an executive order that: (1) requires state contractors working with his executive agencies to certify they will not retaliate against employees who share salary information with each other, and (2) directs his executive agencies to establish new procedures requiring its contractors to report wage data – including information on gender and race – to the agencies within the Governor's purview.

- **An Executive Order establishing a Minimum Wage for State Contractors.** Charlie believes that Florida’s workers deserve a fair wage for their hard work, and he is not alone. A recent poll showed that 73% of Floridians agree that we should raise the minimum wage.⁷⁴

While Rick Scott says the thought of raising the minimum wage makes him “cringe”,⁷⁵ Charlie knows that raising the pay of low-wage workers improves their productivity, their morale, and the quality of their work, while at the same time reducing turnover and supervisory costs. In addition, the increase in low-wage workers’ incomes will provide a boost to Florida’s economy.⁷⁶

“When I hear a politician say that we have to raise the minimum wage so working families can make ends meet, I cringe...”

Gov. Rick Scott, as reported by the *Tampa Bay Times*, 1/8/2014

Shortly after his inauguration ceremony has concluded, Governor Crist will issue an executive order to establish a minimum wage of \$10.10 for contractors working with the state agencies that report to him.

- **An Executive Order affirming Equal Opportunity and prohibiting discrimination in Florida’s state government.** Governor Crist believes that no Floridian should have to endure discrimination or harassment at work or when applying for a job. Federal laws protect Floridians against discrimination on the basis of race, gender, age, religion and other categories, but there are no such protections for members of the LGBT community.

A recent national study found that one-third of LGBT employees have been harassed or have faced discrimination in the workplace.⁷⁷ Although 73% of Floridians believe that LGBT people should be treated fairly at work, many are surprised to learn there are no laws – from either the federal government or the State of Florida – that explicitly protect LGBT employees from unfair workplace discrimination.⁷⁸ Not surprisingly, Rick Scott has not taken a position on proposals before the Florida Legislature to protect LGBT employees, nor has he lifted a finger to help pass these bipartisan proposals.

73% of Floridians believe that LGBT people should be treated fairly at work, but many are surprised to learn there are no laws that explicitly protect LGBT employees from unfair workplace discrimination.

Nearly 90% of Fortune 500 companies already include protections for sexual orientation in their workplace policies.⁷⁹ In fact, many of these same companies are pushing Florida to enact these protections. It is time for Florida’s government to do what is right.

During his first day in office, Governor Crist will add protections for LGBT workers by signing an executive order that will prohibit any form of discrimination within his state agencies or their contractors on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The order will also reaffirm protections against discrimination based on race, sex, color, national origin, military service or affiliation, religion, age, disability, or pregnancy. He will order the Department of Management Services and all agencies under his purview to adhere to the order and to update all management, contracting and hiring practices for his executive agencies.

¹ <http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/gov-rick-scott-makes-big-jobs-promises-but-so-far-gains-are-small/2155837>

² <http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/gov-rick-scott-makes-big-jobs-promises-but-so-far-gains-are-small/2155837>

³ <http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/gov-rick-scott-makes-big-jobs-promises-but-so-far-gains-are-small/2155837>

⁴ <http://www.miamiherald.com/static/media/projects/2013/rick-scotts-jobs-record/part-2/floridas-lost-jobs/>

⁵ <http://www.fha.org/showDocument.aspx?f=EconomicImpactsofExtendingHealthCareCoverageinFlorida-March2013-FINAL.pdf>

⁶ http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/FAQ_Sept_2012.pdf

⁷ <http://www.politifact.com/florida/statements/2013/nov/04/charlie-crist/charlie-crist-says-rick-scott-skipped-out-educatio/>

⁸ “Starving America’s Public Schools: How Budget Cuts and Policy Mandates are Hurting our Nation’s Students”, Campaign for America’s Future / National Education Association. 2011.

⁹ <http://www.politifact.com/florida/statements/2011/feb/08/rick-scott/education-cuts-show-rick-scotts-budget/>

¹⁰ <http://www.politifact.com/florida/statements/2014/jul/24/republican-party-florida/rick-scott-increased-preschool-funding-republican/>

¹¹ <http://www.nieer.org/sites/nieer/files/Getting%20the%20Facts%20Right%20on%20Pre-K.pdf>

¹² “Starving America’s Public Schools: How Budget Cuts and Policy Mandates are Hurting our Nation’s Students”, Campaign for America’s Future / National Education Association. 2011.

¹³ “Starving America’s Public Schools: How Budget Cuts and Policy Mandates are Hurting our Nation’s Students”, Campaign for America’s Future / National Education Association. 2011. As noted in the NEA report, the information provided here is based on media reports up to September 15, 2011, the beginning of the school year affected by Rick Scott’s first year of budget cuts to education. Once the school year was underway, individual schools may have readjusted and called back or laid off employees.”

¹⁴ <http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/politifact-florida-charlie-crist-touts-per-pupil-spending-vs-rick-scott/2189282>

¹⁵ St. Petersburg Times, 1/11/11

¹⁶ <http://www.edweek.org/ew/qc/2012/16src.h31.html?intc=EW-QC12-LFTNAV>

¹⁷ <http://www.fldoe.org/fefp/pdf/0809finalcalc-1.pdf>

¹⁸ <http://www.politifact.com/florida/statements/2014/jul/18/charlie-crist/rick-scotts-student-spending-about-200-less-during/>

¹⁹ Sun Sentinel, 9/2/11

²⁰ The \$515 million needed to restore Rick Scott’s cuts to education is calculated by: Charlie Crist’s record per student funding amount of \$7,126 – Rick’s Scott’s 2014-15 per student amount of \$6,937 = \$189, then multiplying that by the number of expected students for the 2014-15 year (2,724,520.69) = \$514,934,409.69.

²¹ <http://www.politifact.com/florida/statements/2014/jul/24/republican-party-florida/rick-scott-increased-preschool-funding-republican/>

²² The 2014-2015 budget reflected an increase of \$2.6 billion, but yet only \$173,757,254 was allocated for K-12 education, which is only 6.7% of the increase.

²³ <http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/gubernatorial/gov-charlie-crist-state-of-the-state-address-8212-full-text/981040>

²⁴ <http://www.politifact.com/florida/statements/2014/apr/01/american-bridge-21st-century/rick-scott-presided-over-bright-futures-cut-democr/>

²⁵ Per student funding level of \$2,533 (2008-09 funding level) x 180,000 (approximate number of Bright Futures recipients during 2010-11) = \$455.9 million. \$455.9 million - \$266.2 million (Politifact’s estimate of BF dispersals during 2014-15) = \$189.7 million needed to reverse Rick Scott’s cuts. NOTE: These calculations do not adjust for inflation, so the cost to restore Rick Scott’s cuts to Bright Futures is even greater in 2014 dollars.

²⁶ Per student funding level of \$2,533 (2008-09 funding level) x 180,000 (approximate number of Bright Futures recipients during 2010-11) = \$455.9 million. \$455.9 million - \$266.2 million (Politifact’s estimate of BF dispersals

during 2014-15) = \$189.7 million needed to reverse Rick Scott's cuts. NOTE: These calculations do not adjust for inflation, so the cost to restore Rick Scott's cuts to Bright Futures is even greater in 2014 dollars.

²⁷ <http://stateimpact.npr.org/florida/tag/senate-bill-736/>

²⁸ http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2013-12-07/features/os-florida-student-loan-debt-20131207_1_central-florida-average-debt-load-florida-students

²⁹ <http://projectonstudentdebt.org/files/pub/classof2011.pdf>

³⁰ "TAKING ACTION: HIGHER EDUCATION AND STUDENT DEBT", White House's Council of Economic Advisers and Domestic Policy Council, Page 18, June 10, 2014.

³¹ The Institute for College Access & Success. 2014. Private Loans: Facts and Trends. <http://bit.ly/1iEYr52>.

³² <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/mason/Documents/HELD%20FAQ%201.31.14.pdf>

³³ http://host.madison.com/news/local/education/university/student-loan-refinancing-bill-draws-packed-hearing-questions-about-its/article_f95d5e82-43e4-5669-9a9b-572c04496698.html

³⁴ <http://www.mdc.edu/main/americanream/>

³⁵ <http://fos.ufsa.ufl.edu/about/>

³⁶ http://fos.ufsa.ufl.edu/about/facts_figures/

³⁷ http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2014-01-30/business/os-minimum-wage-poll-florida-20140130_1_minimum-wage-florida-voters-florida-poll

³⁸ <http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/the-buzz-florida-politics/democrats-push-for-increase-of-floridas-minimum-wage/2160194>

³⁹ http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm

⁴⁰ <http://www.dol.gov/whd/minwage/chart.htm>

⁴¹ <http://www.dol.gov/whd/state/stateMinWageHis.htm>

⁴² <http://www.floridajobs.org/minimumwage/FloridaMinimumWageHistory2000-2013.pdf>

⁴³ <http://s2.epi.org/files/2013/minimum-wage-state-tables.pdf>

⁴⁴ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/02/12/economic-case-raising-minimum-wage>, slide 11.

⁴⁵ Dube, Lester, and Reich, 2010. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/02/12/economic-case-raising-minimum-wage>, slide 11.

⁴⁶ <http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/small-business-research/downloads/030614-National-Minimum-Wage-Poll.pdf>

⁴⁷ <http://americanprogress.org/issues/economy/news/2014/03/05/84752/raising-the-minimum-wage-to-10-10-would-cut-taxpayer-costs-in-every-state/>

⁴⁸ <https://www.healthcare.gov/what-if-my-state-is-not-expanding-medicaid/>. Eligibility is expanded to include those earning up to 138% of the federal poverty level (\$16,105 for one person, or \$32,913 for a family of 4).

⁴⁹ <http://www.politifact.com/florida/statements/2014/feb/25/rick-scott/rick-scott-opposed-medicaid-expansion-he-supported/>

⁵⁰ <http://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/2-20-13-REMARKSFORDELIVERY.pdf>

⁵¹ <http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/the-buzz-florida-politics/about-face-rick-scott-endorses-medicaid-expansion/2106237>

⁵² "...more than 800,000 uninsured Floridians earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to qualify for federal subsidies to help buy insurance in the federal marketplace." <http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-tallahassee-stubbornness-keeps-800000-uninsured/2181008>

⁵³ <http://healthaffairs.org/blog/2014/01/30/optiming-out-of-medicaid-expansion-the-health-and-financial-impacts/>

⁵⁴ <http://kff.org/health-reform/issue-brief/the-coverage-gap-uninsured-poor-adults-in-states-that-do-not-expand-medicaid/>

⁵⁵ <http://www.fha.org/showDocument.aspx?f=EconomicImpactsofExtendingHealthCareCoverageinFlorida-March2013-FINAL.pdf>. The net federal cost of \$51 billion is the estimated cumulative amount for Florida for the state fiscal years of 2013-14 through 2022-23, and is based on the most recent 10-year projections, provided by the Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research at its Social Service Estimating Conference on March 7, 2013.

⁵⁶ <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/196159-sebelius-urges-mayors-to-push-legislatur-es-on-medicaid-expansion>

⁵⁷ <http://www.fha.org/showDocument.aspx?f=EconomicImpactsofExtendingHealthCareCoverageinFlorida-March2013-FINAL.pdf>

⁵⁸ <http://www.fha.org/showDocument.aspx?f=EconomicImpactsofExtendingHealthCareCoverageinFlorida-March2013-FINAL.pdf>

⁵⁹ <http://www.fha.org/showDocument.aspx?f=EconomicImpactsofExtendingHealthCareCoverageinFlorida-March2013-FINAL.pdf>

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- ⁶⁰ <http://www.fha.org/showDocument.aspx?f=EconomicImpactsofExtendingHealthCareCoverageinFlorida-March2013-FINAL.pdf>
- ⁶¹ <http://www.fha.org/health-care-issues/finance-reimbursement/medicaid.aspx>
- ⁶² <http://health.wusf.usf.edu/post/look-hidden-savings-medicare-expansion-hospitals-plead>
- ⁶³ <http://health.wusf.usf.edu/post/look-hidden-savings-medicare-expansion-hospitals-plead>
- ⁶⁴ <http://www.fha.org/showDocument.aspx?f=EconomicImpactsofExtendingHealthCareCoverageinFlorida-March2013-FINAL.pdf>
- ⁶⁵ Executive Order 11-03, http://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/orders/2011/11-03-ethics_9-26.pdf.
- ⁶⁶ <http://politics.heraldtribune.com/2011/06/30/scott-relationship-with-media-includes-costs-delays-for-records/>
- ⁶⁷ <http://www.theledger.com/article/20110630/NEWS/110639955?p=1&tc=pg>
- ⁶⁸ <http://news.wgcu.org/post/governor-changes-public-record-policy>
- ⁶⁹ <http://news.wgcu.org/post/governor-changes-public-record-policy>
- ⁷⁰ <http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/the-buzz-florida-politics/scott-names-sellers-thrasher-leaders-of-campaign-team/2161462>
- ⁷¹ <http://www.scribd.com/doc/235322327/Sunburst-Screenshot>
- ⁷² <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/workplace-fairness/fair-pay/florida-women-and-the-wage-gap.pdf>
- ⁷³ <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/workplace-fairness/fair-pay/florida-women-and-the-wage-gap.pdf>
- ⁷⁴ http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2014-01-30/business/os-minimum-wage-poll-florida-20140130_1_minimum-wage-florida-voters-florida-poll
- ⁷⁵ <http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/the-buzz-florida-politics/democrats-push-for-increase-of-floridas-minimum-wage/2160194>
- ⁷⁶ <http://www.epi.org/publication/raising-federal-minimum-wage-to-1010/>
- ⁷⁷ <http://www.eqfl.org/maap>
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