



KRIPCHAK FOR CONGRESS
YOUNGSTOWN

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SUBJECT: PRIMARY POLICY INITIATIVES IN RESPONSE TO 2024 TRIBUNE CHRONICLE / THE VINDICATOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

One of the most important concepts they teach us at the US Air Force Academy is the necessity of **“unity of effort”**. This is where multiple disparate efforts are harmonized together towards a singular objective to achieve an outcome with a higher chance of success than if these efforts were undertaken in isolation. Others may know of this concept as “Combined Arms Warfare” or the “System-of-Systems Approach”. It is a philosophy I hold when outlining my campaign priorities since even though Congress may *pass* bills in isolation, the Executive does not *apply* them in isolation and the People do not *experience* them in isolation. The inclination of Congressional candidates to spout talking points as policies in isolation thus is a damaging practice and does not serve the American voter well. Instead, I will touch on my priorities under the framework of one common objective: to Restore the American Dream. As I answer your question you will see that many of **my policies are interrelated and leverage each other to provide an outsized benefit to us in the 6th greater than if approached in isolation.**

All my initiatives boil down to one thing and one thing only: **Restoring the American Dream.** There is rightfully a sense of nostalgia amongst many in our district for the days when one household income could support a family with 2.3 kids, a car, and a house with a white-picket fence. This was a time when Ohio was not only the Heartland but the beating heart of American economic might. This is what we will restore.

The issue at hand is, many of our problems result from the fact that Republicans do not govern. When it comes to “lead, follow, or get out of the way”, General Patton never envisioned that the GOP would discover a fourth option: Obstruct. It’s not that Dems and the GOP have different issues where debate and compromise could yield outcomes to benefit Americans, it’s that the GOP occupy seats at the US Capitol and – in those seats – refuse to govern.

They don’t just bring bad bills, they don’t bring ANY helpful bills to the floor. They don’t just vote the way Americans want them to vote, they either filibuster them in the Senate or kill them at the committee level in the House. The last real piece of legislation the GOP passed was Medicare Part D under the GWB administration and since then nothing but obstruction and tax cuts focused on the wealthy.

Americans then feel that the government isn’t listening to them and forces all responsible lawmakers to funnel into the Democratic Party. So you now have a Congress where a quarter

RESTORE THE AMERICAN DREAM

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are progressive Democrats, a quarter are neoliberal Democrats, and half that are bumps on a log preventing any work to be done as demanded by the voters. The few times when Democrats can overcome the GOP logjam, since the GOP refuse to govern, all this federal money and all the federal programs disproportionately benefit the “Blue States” whose legislators actually lobby for the funding to come to their districts and those of us with GOP representation lose out.

This fact can be no more evident than the bustling boom in the tech sector which disproportionately benefits tech companies and venture capitalists in California as well as financial institutions and private equity firms in New York. The manufacturing engine of the Heartland has withered and died thanks to GOP obstruction and their incessant focus on social wedge issues that do nothing to put food on the table and nothing to instill the sense of American pride that our grandparents had. I will change this by actually legislating programs that benefit the 6th: Bringing those federal dollars into our district and keeping them here to circulate so all in the 6th can prosper.

The dirty truth is that all the **manufacturing jobs of our grandparents are gone** and moved off to China and others in the Far East. Unless we are willing to suppress American wages down to \$2/hour those jobs aren't coming back here. Anyone who tells you otherwise is lying. But this does not need to spell doom for the 6th. My top initiative is to bring **HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-PAY, HIGH-DIGNITY MANUFACTURING JOBS** to the 6th.

Advanced capitalist economies continue to invest in manufacturing where their workers can enjoy high salaries along with the personal fulfillment of continuous training and education. They not only compete, but thrive in the global marketplace. Building off the recent successes in bringing Ultium Cells and the under-construction Intel production facility here to Ohio, I will direct federal programming to create an **ADVANCED MATERIALS MANUFACTURING HUB IN THE OHIO RIVER VALLEY**. This nexus will spawn many innovative high-tech manufacturing small businesses much like our neighbors across the state in Dayton already do – with Wright-Patterson AFB as their nexus.

My opponents like to talk about how they want to construct more freeways and railway stops but we can't afford half-measures. I've seen what aimless construction has done to Chinese cities as their local councils go bankrupt, saddled with the burden of maintaining these construction projects without any economic activity to fill their coffers. I will not only ensure our roads and railways are completed, but work with legislators in the Columbus, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh regions to ensure their programs are distributed throughout the region. Not only will the 6th gain in their economic prosperity, but the roads and rail that we build will actually be used and have purpose, increasing commercial traffic throughout our region. This will ensure that our local governments will be able to secure revenue from these fiscal flows and fund their local priorities.

Which leads me to my other point of interest, which is to bring back a **MANUFACTURING HUB TO MARIETTA** that feeds into the economic prosperity of the greater Cleveland metropolitan area. By doing this, we will **ENSURE COMMERCIAL FLOWS** have a reason to move up and down

our district so all in the 6th can share in economic progress and not just Mahoning and Columbiana counties. Too long have our representatives ignored our district's southern counties. I will put an end to this.

The 6th has its **HERITAGE IN MINING AND STEEL**, and I intend to bring that heritage back and pull this sector into the 21st century. I was an Air Force Science officer so I've seen, through our advanced programs, a window into the future of what is possible.

While CA and NY like to talk about tech and software, I *know* that the biggest roadblock to progress in tech are the chips that they run on. Software is nothing without hardware and the performance improvements of systems - be they military or otherwise - are overwhelmingly realized through the **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING OF HARDWARE** and the **DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED MATERIALS**. All one has to do is go down to the 10th and see what they are doing at WPAFB and the surrounding areas in Beavercreek, Kettering, and Fairborn. The programs they are working on can benefit from advanced manufacturing materials based on steel and composites that our district will provide. Likewise, the carbon fiber and nanomaterial revolution is nearly upon us and the 6th can seize this opportunity. With a stroke of the President's pen, by an advanced manufacturing hub in the 6th can be established that takes our **COAL AND RARE EARTHS RESOURCES** and puts them to use in **HIGH-SKILL APPLICATIONS** to build the next generation of machines the world will use. If we are mining for coal, why are we listening to the GOP who's only bright idea is to burn this valuable resource?

On the issue of burning coal, it is high time we rekindle the spirit of the 1940s. Just as the US Air Force was born from this era, so was the unleashing of the power of the atom during the Manhattan Project. I refuse to believe we have lost our innovative spirit and will pass laws instructing the Dept of Energy to initiate the "**MARIETTA PROJECT**". Washington will direct the full economic might of America on a nation-wide program to **FINALLY COMMERCIALIZE FUSION ENERGY**. A national "moonshot program" for commercializing fusion will bring unprecedented economic growth to our Nation but more importantly to us. This moonshot will require advanced Ohio Valley steel, advanced rare earth elements, and trace gasses from Ohio Valley coal and the other natural resources we possess.

None of this can happen without the mobilization of a highly-skilled and highly-motivated workforce which only our unions can help mobilize. I will direct the Dept of Labor to develop an unemployment and continuous training scheme that will be managed by **SECTOR-WIDE UNIONS** based on NAICS codes or otherwise that will be charged, much like the Dept of Defense, to maintain the well-being of the "Reserve Force" of workers in their sector. This will be done by authorizing unemployment benefits and insurance to be managed through the unions as well as unions being the primary public vessel providing inputs to the Dept of Labor on sector-wide standards of training and education for our highly-skilled workforce of the 21st century. This will encourage union membership and ensure workers have access to unemployment and healthcare even if laid-off while also having access to training to keep their skills current – enabling them to quickly reenter the workforce should their careers be interrupted.

These policies are **not a choice between being pro-union or pro-business**. On the contrary, sector-wide unions with the government's backing of nationwide programs described above will only benefit businesses. As an Acquisitions Officer, I saw first-hand how businesses often did not compete on operational expenses, given the technical nature of Air Force procurement contracts, but rather their SG&A efficiency or overhead. By offloading this overhead burden on unions, business leaders can focus on making their capital work for their business. Furthermore, the training standards and programs that the unions will provide will ensure employers know what type of employee they are hiring and the precise skill level they have. This can end the dreaded job postings that call for "entry level positions requiring 20 years of experience". Sector-wide collective bargaining also ensures that mid-size businesses will not have their talent poached on salary alone due to uncompetitive practices of giant VC-backed Coastal State monopolies and also incentivizes employers to encourage union membership so that their employees can provide meaningful inputs to sector-wide collective bargaining.

I will further instruct the Dept of Labor to **CODIFY STANDARDS FOR HOURLY-WAGE WORKERS** that enforce **not only an hourly minimum wage but one INDEXED to a 40hr work week**. This will ensure hourly employees don't get abused by the two-tier payment systems that keep our citizens chronically underemployed. This is often a bigger problem than unemployment since underemployment doesn't get reported in federal unemployment statistics. A living wage should provide a life worth living.

Just as my veterans' benefits are automatically indexed to inflation, I will also codify that all the federal benefits to American workers be **indexed**, to include minimum wage standards. **Just because we want to live like our parents in the 1960s, it doesn't mean we should be paid the same nominal wages as them.**

On the note of national infrastructure, I will push for Congress to instruct HUD and other appropriate cabinet agencies to set minimum standards for our municipalities to provide the **MINIMUM LEVEL OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** to its citizens to include electricity, heat, water, sewage, and broadband. All these shall be implemented in the vein of anti-monopolistic practices that the DoD has worked hard to implement in their own agency – namely, utility transmission companies cannot be the utility generators or service providers. Or at the very least in cases of limited options for rural areas, Open Access Architecture will be enforced where any utility provider can share and use the same transmission network. There is no reason for any American to live in squalor.

To ensure all of the 6th gets to share in the prosperity of my agenda, I will also work with our farmers to **FIX THE FAILURES OF THE FARM BILL**. I will direct the Dept of Agriculture to **invest in scientific innovations of sustainable farming practices** with specific focus on fertilizer use. Many of our farms in the 6th are running on razor thin margins and the cost of fertilizers is easily 20% of operating expenses. In partnership with the University System of Ohio, a major goal of mine will be the Research & Development of high-yield crops **where the seeds are publicly funded** - so farmers will not have to worry about IP restrictions on reseeded. Americans shouldn't starve and farmers shouldn't lose their farms because Monsanto's lawyers tricked

some judge in Indiana. Vertical farming funding will also introduce a virtuous cycle between our farmers and manufacturers here in the 6th. While we are on moonshot initiatives, I will also instruct the Dept of Interior to devise a plan on **THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT NETWORKS** to include aqueducts to remove the threat of flooding in the southern and eastern states while transferring that excess water to the Heartland so our farmers' drought worries will be a thing of the past.

To maximize the revenue received by our farmers, I will instruct the State Department to increase their USAID outputs to the impoverished nations of the world and particularly those who, via the bribing of cheap low-quality Chinese foodstuffs, are succumbing to the anti-American Chinese hegemony. To these countries we will provide high-quality American food aid as well as to the countries who contribute to our **ASYLUM AND REFUGEE CRISIS ON OUR SOUTHERN BORDER**. If \$1 of State Dept funding is equivalent to \$10 in the Defense Dept, the strengthening of State's budget - increasing the power of our Diplomatic Corps - will give us the biggest bang-for-our-buck in fighting the nefarious interests of China, Russia, and Iran. Also, this will provide us with advanced warning on emerging threats, be they military or human migration in nature.

While these initiatives of mine will ensure prosperity for ourselves, it will do little to ensure the **PROSPERITY OF OUR POSTERITY**. One of my major initiatives will be to reinvigorate our **PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM**. Our Founding Fathers stated that the strength of our democracy is directly related to the strength of our education. Gone are the days of creating model citizens instilled with American values who are active in the civics of their local communities. No Child Left Behind and the Every Student Succeeds Act have diverted authority from teachers to administrators, concentrated funding to "successful" schools, and created a generation of kids hyper-focused on "teaching to the test" and merely passing the reading and math sections of the SATs.

It is high time we reintroduce the **"WHOLE PERSON CONCEPT"** to our public education system. This is inspired by how our Military Academies prepare cadets to become mentally, emotionally, and physically ready to be the next generation of officers. Likewise, our children should be mentally, emotionally, and physically ready to be Americans. I will work with the teachers' unions to make sure that their pay is increased in order to swell our educator ranks and reduce the student-teacher ratio to proper levels. I will have Congress instruct the Dept of Education to set nationwide standards from the inputs of teachers' unions, with these broad standards allowing the individual states to put "meat on the bones". This will put the standards of education back in the hands of the most qualified to do so: Our teachers. And just as above, teachers will be able to rely on continued professional development through unions ensuring the best educational practices are used with our kids.

The standards and funding will not be linked to standardized tests but instead to the Whole Person Concept. Yes, kids will learn the 3 R's but they will also learn STEM, social studies, history and practical life skills. Primary to this initiative is getting civics out of the classroom and into the community. Students working with community organizations and doing volunteer work

for classroom credit is a perfect opportunity to enable mentorship, leadership, and to teach students what it means to serve. The finer details of standards being set locally will mean Texan teachers cannot stop Ohio kids from learning about our great Ohio leaders like Gen William Tecumseh Sherman and New Yorkers won't be able to say Ohio kids can't learn about the difference between chestnuts and buckeyes. I will also work with the Board of Governors to ensure these state and local standards will have a positive feedback loop where individual state university systems will base their admission standards on the Whole Person Concept, ensuring the end of "teaching to the test".

I will also have Congress **AUTHORIZE BLOCK GRANTS FOR STATES TO ENSURE KIDS HAVE FREE SCHOOL LUNCHES** made **FROM LOCALLY GROWN FOODS** that our farmers grow, as well as free afternoon school programs to focus on the liberal arts like music, art, or physical fitness and sports. These programs will also enable those that want to forgo college to learn trade skills and enter the workforce directly. **College should not be an obligation for living a good life in America.**

The diligent reader may have noticed that many of these policy proposals go a long way in furthering **ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES** to fight climate change, yet I did not specifically speak to that. This is by design. These policies that can save America – that can save the 6th – are by their very nature environmentally friendly. I will not allow the environment to be turned into a political issue and Congress does not need to sacrifice our Green Earth on the altar of economic prosperity.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kripchak', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

MICHAEL L. KRIPCHAK
Candidate
US Congressional District 6, OH