

## **SENATOR BAUCUS HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENTS**

Highlights:

**Max delivers good-paying jobs for Montanans.**

- **Senator Baucus Helped Pass Six Farm Bills. One in five Montana jobs are related to agriculture.**
- **Since 1998, Senator Baucus Helped Pass Three Highway Bills That Brought More Than \$4 Billion To Montana.**

**Max was a steadfast champion for Social Security.**

- **In 2006, Senator Baucus Successfully Declared Social Security Privatization “Off The Table.”**

**Max succeeded in passing historic health care reform**

- **The law is already improving lives, keeping insurance companies from discriminating against children with pre-existing conditions.**
- **Headline below: The Affordable Care Act Accounts For The Largest Health Care Tax Cut For The Middle Class In History. “**
- **Max fought to ensure Libby victims of asbestos exposure would be included in health care law.**

**Veterans:**

- **Max passed landmark legislation to expand Mental Health Assessments for every Soldier, Marine, Airman or Sailor.**
- **Max was the original author of legislation to give businesses tax credits for hiring unemployed veterans.**

**Max championed landmark legislation to uphold our outdoor heritage.**

- **Senator Baucus Was The Chief Sponsor Of The 1990 Clean Air Act**

**Max worked with Montanans to fight the scourge of methamphetamine**

- **Senator Baucus Secured Over \$5.1 Million In Federal Funds To Help Fight Methamphetamine**

## Farm Bill

### **Senator Baucus Helped Pass Six Farm Bills.**

**Montana Provisions In The 2008 Farm Bill Include Disaster Relief, Less Burdensome Rules For Country Of Origin Labeling, Keeping Farm Service Agency Offices Open, And A Nutritional Program.** "Montana Provisions Baucus Inserted In Farm Bill Establishing a Permanent Disaster Assistance Trust Fund a" provides \$3.8 billion over 5 years. Simplifies rules so it's less burdensome for producers, packers and retailers for Country of Origin Labeling to be implemented. Keeps all Farm Service Agency Offices open in Montana that are more than 20 miles apart for the next two years. Interstate Shipment of State Inspected Meat a" make it easier to get Montana beef on kitchen tables across the country. Smaller packers can use the same inspectors they currently have and Boosting nutrition program a" an additional \$10.3 billion." [States News Service, 5/15/08]

**The Farm Bill Included Nearly \$4 Billion In Weather-Related Disaster Relief Programs.** "The bill also contains \$3.8 billion sought by Baucus that would pay farmers who lose crops to weather-related disasters a priority for farmers in Montana and the Dakotas." [Associated Press, 5/14/08]

**The 2008 Farm Bill Included The First Ever Comprehensive Disaster Assistance Program.** According to his website, Baucus said, "I led the charge to create the first-ever comprehensive disaster assistance program as part of the 2008 Farm Bill." [Baucus website, accessed [4/23/13](#)]

**The 2008 Farm Bill Created A Disaster Trust Fund.** According to his website, "The 2008 Farm Bill creates a Disaster Trust Fund that will finance five programs to comprehensively address agricultural disasters across the nation. These programs include the Supplemental Revenue Program, Livestock Forage Program, Tree Assistance Program, Livestock Indemnity Program, and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish." [Baucus website, accessed [4/23/13](#)]

## Highway Bill

**Since 1998, Senator Baucus Helped Pass Three Highway Bills That Brought More Than \$4 Billion To Montana.**

**2012 Highway Bill Brought \$400 Million Annually To Montana And Supported 13,500 Highway Jobs.** [Baucus press release, [6/29/12](#)]

- **As Part Of Highway Bill, Senator Baucus Secured Student Loan Relief For 24,000 Montana Students.** "As part of the overall Highway Bill compromise, Baucus secured a bipartisan agreement to extend the low interest rates through July 1, 2013, without adding to the deficit. Without this compromise Montana students would have paid an additional \$975 in interest over the life of the loan. Without Congressional action the interest rate on federally subsidized Stafford loans will double on July 1, 2012, from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. Approximately 24,000 Montana students will receive Stafford subsidized loans this year of an average \$3,958. And nationwide nearly 7.5 million students will take out subsidized Stafford loans next year." [Baucus press release, [6/29/12](#)]

**2005 Highway Bill Brought \$2.3 Billion To Montana Over Six Years And Created Approximately 18,000 Jobs.** According to the *Great Falls Tribune*, "Montana is set to receive \$2.3 billion in the current version of the bill, enough to create around 18,000 jobs during the next six years. The funds represent a 44 percent increase from the last highway bill." [Great Falls Tribune, 7/29/05]

**1998 Highway Bill Brought As Much As \$260 Million To Montana Over Six Years.** "Baucus was a key sponsor of the 1998 federal highway bill that increased Montana's federal highway funds to as much as \$260 million a year over the next six years - a 60 percent increase." [Great Falls Tribune, 7/13/99]

**Baucus: 1998 Highway Bill Created 4,000 Jobs And Maintained 11,000.** In an editorial for the *Great Falls Tribune*, Baucus wrote “the highway bill we passed in Congress increased annual highway funding to Montana from \$162 million to \$260 million over six years. That money created 4,000 new jobs and maintains 11,000 jobs in our state. Reinforcing our infrastructure helps us compete economically - we are a highway state.” [Baucus Editorial, *Great Falls Tribune*, 3/12/00]

## **Social Security Privatization**

### **Senator Baucus Called On President Bush To Eliminate Plan To Privatize Social Security.**

“Senators Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Max Baucus (D-Mont.) today called on President George W. Bush to eliminate Social Security privatization from the White House’s post-November agenda. In a letter, the Democratic leader and the Finance Committee’s ranking Democrat reminded the President that the American people have soundly rejected the Administration’s efforts to privatize Social Security, which would result in deep benefit cuts and increased debt. Repeated statements from the administration and the congressional majority have indicated their intention to return to the rejected privatization efforts following the November elections. Today, Reid and Baucus reiterated Democrats’ commitment to fight any scheme that would privatize Social Security and jeopardize the benefits American workers have earned...’The President has made clear that he wants another run at Social Security, but Democrats will stand squarely in the path of any effort to put workers’ payroll taxes into risky investment accounts and cut benefits for future retirees,’ said Baucus. ‘Democrats will work to fix Social Security’s financial challenges responsibly. But after the November elections we need to focus on immediate, pressing economic concerns – not on this ideological, political priority for the President.’” [Finance Committee Press Release, [9/20/06](#)]

**Klein: Reid Put Baucus In Charge Of Fighting Against Social Security Privatization.** “In 2005, when Bush seemed all but politically invincible, Harry Reid put Baucus in charge of the Democratic effort to block Social Security privatization. Baucus creamed Bush. Privatization never even came up for a vote.” [Ezra Klein, *The American Prospect*, [10/23/08](#)]

**In 2006, Senator Baucus Declared Social Security Privatization “Off The Table.”** “The incoming chairman of the Senate Finance Committee said Thursday he wants to hold hearings on looming insolvencies in the Medicare and Social Security programs but said President Bush’s plan to partially privatize Social Security is dead. ‘Don’t waste our time,’ said Democratic Sen. Max Baucus of Montana. ‘It’s off the table.’” [Havre Daily News, [11/17/06](#)]

## **Health Care**

**The Affordable Care Act Prevents Insurers From Denying Coverage To Children Under Age 19 Based On A Pre-Existing Conditions.** “Now, under the health care law, plans that cover children can no longer exclude, limit, or deny coverage to your child under age 19 solely based on a health problem or disability that your child developed before you applied for coverage.” [healthcare.gov, [09/23/2010](#)]

- **There Were As Many As 17 Million Children With Some Type Of Pre-Existing Condition.** “Translating these percentages into numbers of people, there are 4 to 17 million children under age 18 with some type of pre-existing condition” [Healthcare.gov, [03/2011](#)]

**Under The Affordable Care, Starting In 2014, Americans With Pre-Existing Conditions Cannot Be Denied Coverage, Charged Higher Premiums, Or Be Subject To Other Discriminatory Actions.** “Up to one in five non-elderly Americans with a pre-existing condition – 25 million individuals – is uninsured. Under the Affordable Care Act, starting in 2014, these Americans cannot be denied coverage, be charged significantly higher premiums, be subjected to an extended waiting period, or have their benefits curtailed by insurance companies.” [Healthcare.gov, Accessed [12/30/11](#)]

- **There Are As Many As 129 Million Non-Elderly Americans With Some Type Of Pre-Existing Conditions.** “According to a new analysis by the Department of Health and Human Services, 50 to 129 million (19 to 50 percent of) non-elderly Americans have some type of pre-existing health condition.” [Healthcare.gov, [03/2011](#)]

**The Affordable Care Act Prevents Insurers From Rescinding Coverage If A Person Makes A Mistake On Their Insurance Application.** “Before the health care law, if your insurance company found that you’d made a mistake on your insurance application, the insurance company might “rescind” your benefits — that is, declare your policy invalid from the day it began. Your insurance company might also ask you to pay back any money already spent for your medical care. Now, an insurer cannot rescind your coverage simply because you made an honest mistake or left out information that has little bearing on your health.” [Healthcare.gov, [09/23/10](#)]

**Because of Health Care Reform, 105 Million Americans No Longer Have A Lifetime Limit On Their Insurance Policies.** “Overall, we estimated that 70 million persons in large employer plans, 25 million persons in small employer plans, and 10 million persons with individually purchased health insurance had lifetime limits on their health benefits prior to the passage of the Affordable Care Act. These 105 million Americans now enjoy improved coverage without lifetime limits.” [Department of Health & Human Services, [March 2012](#)]

**Under Health Care Reform, Insurance Companies Must Justify Any Rate Increase That Is 10 Percent Or Greater.** “The Affordable Care Act creates a Rate Review program in your state to help protect individuals and small businesses from unreasonable health insurance rate increases. Starting on September 1, 2011, health insurers must justify any rate increase of 10% or more before the increase takes effect.” [healthcare.gov, [10/07/11](#)]

**Under Healthcare Reform, Insurance Companies Must Spend At Least 80 Percent Of Their Premium Dollars On Medical Care And Health Care Quality Improvement Instead Of Administrative Costs.** “Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, consumers will receive more value for their premium dollar because insurance companies will be required to spend 80 to 85 percent of premium dollars on medical care and health care quality improvement, rather than on administrative costs, starting in 2011.” [Healthcare.gov, [11/22/2010](#)]

**In 2014, Health Care Reform Will Prevent Insurers From Charging Women Higher Premiums Than They Charge Men.** “Before the law, women could be charged more for individual insurance policies simply because of their gender. A 22-year-old woman could be charged 150% the premium that a 22-year-old man paid. In 2014, insurers will not be able to charge women higher premiums than they charge men.” [HealthCare.gov, accessed [7/28/11](#)]

**The Affordable Care Act Accounts For The Largest Health Care Tax Cut For The Middle Class In History.** “The health reform legislation signed into law by President Obama includes the largest health care tax cut in history for middle class families, helping to make insurance much more affordable for millions of families.” [White House, [04/13/10](#)]

## **Medicare Part D**

In 2007, Max introduced a measure to amend the Medicare Part D program allowing the government to negotiate lower drug prices for seniors.

In 2006, Max introduced legislation that included \$18 million for counseling to help seniors sign up for the Medicare Part D program and ensure they get access to the medicine they need.

In 2006, Max introduced legislation to protect seniors from a late fee if they still had not signed up for the new Medicare Part D program by the enrollment deadline. Max scolded the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services for approving too many plans and making the process too confusing for seniors.

In 2006, Max introduced legislation to help make the Medicare prescription drug program less confusing for seniors by allowing seniors to choose their own benefit package and prohibiting plans from changing drug coverage during the benefit year. Max's bill also prohibits unfair plan marketing practices to Medicare beneficiaries.

In 2006, Max met with the CEOs of the major pharmaceutical companies to urge them to continue to provide free or discounted prescription drug programs for seniors who could not otherwise afford such drugs. Max wanted the programs to be offered in addition to the Medicare Part D program.

## Libby

**Senator Baucus Visited Libby More Than 20 Times And Fought The EPA To Declare Libby A Public Health Emergency.** "Since news reports first linked widespread deaths and illness to exposure to deadly asbestos fibers at the defunct W.R Grace and Co. mine, Baucus has visited Libby more than 20 times, secured millions for healthcare and cleanup, brought numerous White House cabinet secretaries to the town, helped save the CARD clinic, and has dogged the EPA to keep cleanup efforts moving forward. As far back as 1999, Baucus wrote a letter to then Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala requesting immediate medical help and assistance to the area. He further lambasted the EPA's decision to not declare a Public Health Emergency, calling it an "outrage." In 2008, Baucus released a report detailing a 2002 attempt by the EPA to declare a Public Health Emergency in Libby that was thwarted by the previous Administration's Office of Management and Budget. And on June 17, 2009, due in large part to Baucus' efforts, the EPA declared its first ever public health emergency in Libby, Montana." [Baucus Website, accessed [4/22/13](#)]

**Senator Baucus Ensured Libby Victims Would Be Included In Health Care Law, Ensuring They Would Get Care Under Medicare.** "As a the key author of health care reform law, Baucus fought hard to make sure the law included a mechanism for residents of Libby and Lincoln County to access the health care they were entitled to as victims of a public health emergency. As a result, victims of asbestos exposure in Lincoln County began getting care under Medicare in the Spring of 2010." [Baucus Website, accessed [4/22/13](#)]

## PTSD

**Senator Baucus Passed Legislation To Expand Mental Health Assessments For Every Soldier, Marine, Airman or Sailor.** "In 2009, Max passed legislation to expand mental health assessments for every Soldier, Marine, Airman, or Sailor after he or she returns from combat. The assessments are provided in a private, clinical setting by licensed mental-health professionals or personnel trained and certified to perform such assessments. The legislation was included in the 2009 Defense Reauthorization bill." [Baucus Press Release, [10/28/09](#)]

## Clean Air Act

**Senator Baucus Was The Chief Sponsor Of The 1990 Clean Air Act, The First Overhaul In 13 Years.** "The Senate brushed aside a decade's stalemate Saturday and sent a sweeping revision of national air pollution laws to President Bush for his expected signature. The first overhaul of the Clean Air Act since 1977 -- mandating deep cuts in emissions causing acid rain, urban smog, toxic hazards and ozone depletion -- passed the Senate by 89-10. The House had passed it Friday, 401-25. 'This bill is going to make Americans healthier,' said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the chief sponsor." [Miami Herald, 10/28/90]

**The 1990 Clean Air Act Gave Economic Incentives For Cutting Pollution.** “Lawmakers said the measure offers imaginative and, in some cases, experimental provisions to reduce environmental contamination, like economic incentives to polluters that are aimed at gaining greater cooperation from companies. The legislation will serve as a model for updating in the 1990's the other 1970's-era statutes that form the foundation of the nation's environmental program, the lawmakers said. The largest economic incentives are in a provision on acid rain. The provision sets an overall annual level of emissions of sulfur dioxide from power plants, of 8.9 million tons, by the year 2000. That level is less than the half the current emissions. The measure sets a specific emissions limit on 111 utilities in 22 states. Under this plan, if a utility reduces emissions below the required level, it can sell the difference as a credit to new power plants or plants that are planning expansions. Those plants have to buy the credits to win permission from the Government to emit all their pollution.” [New York Times, 10/28/90]

**The Clean Air Act Required Oil Companies To Burn Cleaner Fuel And Cities To Reduce Smog.** “The legislation is also more precise in specifying the limits on pollution for industries and businesses and in setting timetables for meeting those limits. No other environmental statute is as precise. The agreement requires oil companies to develop new types of gasoline that burn more cleanly by 1995 and names nine cities, including New York, where the only gasoline available for sale will be the new fuel. Cities are required to reduce concentrations of ozone, a principal component of smog, to a level considered safe, and the act includes penalties if cities miss the deadlines.” [New York Times, 10/28/90]

## Meth

**Senator Baucus Secured Over \$5.1 Million In Federal Funds To Help Fight Methamphetamine.** Max has secured over \$5.1 million in federal funds for the State of Montana to help fight to scourge of methamphetamine. He fought to pass the Combat Meth Act of 2005, to put pseudoephedrine behind the pharmacy counter and limit the sale of medications used in meth production. In 2002, Max secured designation for five Montana counties in the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, or HIDTA, to access additional federal resources and collaborate with other agencies to end drug trafficking.

- 2002
  - Montana Meth Initiative - \$2 million
  - Flathead Valley Meth Initiative - \$500,000
- 2003
  - Yellowstone County Meth Initiative - \$1.25 million
- 2005
  - Montana Meth Initiative - \$500,000
- 2007
  - Montana Meth Project - \$916,500