



Made in America Panel Proposes that Apprenticeships Represent a New Pathway to the Middle Class

The broken Democratic promise to bring USMCA to the House floor; watching the impeachment hearings suck the air out of the economy; the need to move forward on more American apprenticeship programs to fill vacant jobs; why foreign countries are out maneuvering America by successfully training workers; why the Medicare for All initiative will be a disaster; the tremendous cost to every American if Medicare for All is passed—especially the cost borne by all Americans to pay for immigrant healthcare,

were among the topics tackled by host Neal Asbury, co-host Dr. Rich Roffman, and a panel of experts on the nationally syndicated "Neal Asbury's Made in America" show on Radio America (aired by almost 100 affiliates and the Armed Forces Network).

Neal and Dr. Roffman began the show by taking Democrats to task for their off-again, on-again declaration that they would bring the USMCA to the House floor for a vote. They also proposed that the impeachment hearings are resulting in the Hill taking their eye off all of the things that need to be done, including job creation.

The first guest on Made in America was Eric M. Seleznow, a senior advisor who directs JFF's Center for Apprenticeship & Work-Based Learning. He works to further the organization's goals of advancing innovative workforce policy and programs.

Neal noted that it's time for people to re-think the concept of a 4-year university degree and explore options such as an apprenticeship program.

"As the labor market tightens to record-low unemployment, employers far beyond the building trades are turning to apprenticeship as a way to grow their own talent. While embracing this time-tested approach to career training, growing industries like tech, health care, and financial services are also challenging traditional approaches to apprenticeship. The United States added over 200,000 new apprentices since 2014, according to the US Department of Labor—a 53 percent increase and the largest growth in decades. Apprenticeship enjoys rare bipartisan support in Congress, substantial federal and state investment, and innovation across education, industry, labor, and workforce development. Now, we have an enormous opportunity to further expand apprenticeship and reshape our workforce system to better serve employers and workers alike," according to Seleznow.

Dr. Roffman and Neal are pleased to see

this important trend grow since the job market has changed a great deal over the past 20 years when a 4-year degree was a necessity.

"The key to apprenticeship programs, which are being called 'learn and earn,' is that it allows students, as young as high school age, to earn a salary while they learn important job skills. It also keeps young workers within the community, so they don't move away. It's really the best new pathway to the middle class," proposed Seleznow, who added that a promising new trend is that companies from Germany and Switzerland are starting apprenticeship programs in America.

Neal noted that as an American manufacturer he is having a hard time finding trained workers, such as tool and die professionals. "China has done a great job training tool and die workers which gives them a big competitive advantage on labor and costs. Once these types of jobs dry up in America, they are almost impossible to bring back."

The discussion turned to the Medicare for All program proposed by Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, which will be a disaster.

"It's unbelievable. Warren has stated that she will put 135 million people on her program her first day in office," according to Dr. Roffman.

The next guest on Made in America was Jamie Bryan Hall, a Research Fellow in Quantitative Analysis for The Heritage Foundation.

"Proposals to impose a government-run health care system, such as the pending 'Medicare for All' legislation, on the American public would leave most households financially worse off. Workers would have to pay additional taxes—21.2 percent of all wage and salary income—raising the total federal payroll tax rate to 36.5 percent for most workers. Average disposable income (after taxes and private medical expenses) for all households would decline by \$5,671 per year. We also find that nearly two-thirds of American households (65.5 percent, comprising 73.5 percent of the population) would pay more in taxes than they would save from no longer paying health insurance premiums and the absence of out-of-pocket medical spending. For households with employer-sponsored insurance, 87.2 percent would be worse off financially," according to Hall.

Dr. Roffman proposed that Medicare for All is just Obamacare 2.0 – another program that costs too much and covers too little.

Hall agreed, predicting that Medicare for All will force every American to pay 21 cents on every earned dollar. It will cost the government \$2.3

trillion. "Even people already getting government assistance will have to pay more. In reality only a few people will actually be saving money."

Dr. Roffman wondered who will be making money on this Medicare for All deal.

"The bureaucrats will be making the money. In every country where these types of systems are in place, people are denied benefits," noted Hall.

Hall is concerned that both Warren and Sanders are advocating that more immigrants be allowed into the country and receive Medicare for All.

"It has been shown that those immigrants who pay taxes are actually receiving more in benefits than they pay in. Letting in unskilled immigrants and letting them collect benefits will cost \$600,000 per immigrant. If they can get everything for free, more immigrants will pour into this country," opined Hall.

Neal and Dr. Roffman ended the show by revisiting the negative impact impeachment is having on the economy.

"Nothing is getting done in this country. Let's get the impeachment over with. Everyone knows that Democrats will vote for impeachment, so let's just end the hearing and vote. Let's get back and do what is necessary to move this country forward," according to Neal.

"There is no due process in this entire circus. Let's just end it," added Dr. Roffman.

Neal agreed, adding, "Our competitors are gaining on us while we are muddling through this impeachment mess. We need to focus on the economy and growth."

Each week Neal Asbury's Made in America provides Neal's insights into the week's top news stories and their impact on the worlds of entrepreneurship, small business ownership and the overall economy. Neal's analysis, together with co-host Dr. Richard Roffman, a veteran 30-year publisher with extensive domestic and international experience, takes a non-biased approach based on real life experience in business as an American manufacturer and exporter. Made in America airs nationally each Saturday from 7-8:00 PM on Radio America. Link to Made in America at <http://www.nealasburysmadeinamerica.com>.



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