



Voice of the People

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Sanders wants America for ordinary people

Regarding the March 30 guest commentary by Emily Ekins, "Millennials view socialism favorably - until they get jobs":

This piece about Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign contains a wealth of misinformation about the Vermont senator's proposals.

The author says Sanders' platform "requires everyday people to pay considerably more in taxes." Nothing could be further from the truth. Sanders has repeatedly stated he intends to raise taxes only on the wealthiest Americans - whose tax burden has declined steadily since the Reagan administration. He also wants major corporations - many of which pay zero federal income taxes - to contribute fairly to government coffers.

The piece concludes by implying the best way to rectify out-of-control education and health-care costs is through the free market. That has been tried for the last 35 years, with disastrous results. Today's students graduate college with enormous debt, and the majority of bankruptcies in this country are due to medical bills people can't afford to pay. Average Americans are working harder and for longer hours, while wages have remained stagnant for decades. Meanwhile, the rich keep getting richer.

Finally, consider the source. The author, Emily Ekins, works for the Cato Institute, a right-wing think tank founded in the 1970s by billionaire oil baron Charles Koch. Its website claims to be "dedicated to the principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets and peace." Translation: allowing the wealthy and corporations to do as they please without government interference.

Sanders envisions an America where the government works for ordinary people, and he deserves support from voters both young and old.