



## **Ryan And Clinton See Eye To Eye On Anti-Poverty Measure**

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Scott Mason

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Democrat nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican Speaker of the House Paul Ryan are ideological enemies, especially with the presidential election looming in November.

However, they do agree on an anti-poverty proposal that would allocate billions of dollars to some of the nation's chronically poorest neighborhoods.

The plan, put forth by Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.), has a surprising amount of bi-partisan support given how divided the two major parties are at the moment, but the key seems to be the fact that the bill equally targets poor white voters who live in GOP-held districts and African-American voters who live in Democrat controlled areas.

While both Ryan and Clinton have been supportive of the proposal, GOP nominee Donald Trump has yet to comment on it.

Clinton has made reference to the plan most often when speaking in African-American areas, but she has also highlighted the importance of it helping poor people of all races and creeds.

"That is a program that would target a lot of places in America, not only inner city poverty but rural poverty, Indian country poverty, coal country poverty," she said during a town hall meeting in March.

The proposal, commonly referred to as the 10-20-30 plan, would allocate 10 percent of a federal program's funds to counties where 20 percent of the population has lived in poverty for 30 years.

The appeal to Republican lawmakers is that as of 2009, 84 Republicans represented such chronically poor counties (311 counties with 8.3 million people) while 43 Democrats represented

the rest (149 counties with 8.8 million people). An additional 14 counties with 5.3 million people were split relatively evenly between Republicans and Democrats.

This is likely why Ryan pushed House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) to work with Clyburn on finding a way to make the 10-20-30 plan work within the constraints of the federal budget.

“I want to make one thing clear about the 10-20-30 approach,” Clyburn said in a statement released earlier this year. “It does not add one dime to the deficit. It simply targets resources from funds already authorized or appropriated.”

Despite Ryan’s support, the proposal does have its critics.

Michael Tanner, a senior fellow and poverty expert at the libertarian Cato Institute, believes the formula is too arbitrary and may not work out in practice the way it is designed to.

Tanner thinks it will lead to what many complain about with government programs, which is that good intentions will simply lead to more waste.

“You have the money, so you spend it,” he said.

Clyburn, the third-highest-ranking House Democrat, says the proposal isn’t about race, it is about poverty.

“If you’re talking about poverty rates, then you’re talking about white people in Kentucky and West Virginia,” he said. “You’re talking about Latinos in New Mexico and Arizona. You’re talking about Native Americans in South Dakota and Alaska.”

Rogers, a representative from part of Kentucky’s poverty stricken Appalachian region, said local anti-poverty efforts are still key to helping the poor, but from a federal standpoint, “The ‘10-20-30 plan’ has the potential to provide much-needed relief to our rural communities that have suffered through three decades of generational poverty.”

Congress will have to decide whether to pass an omnibus spending bill or issue continuing resolutions maintaining current spending levels by Sept. 30, either of which could include 10-20-30.