



Hillary Clinton stops in Clinton, Iowa

Warren Dawson

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Bernie Sanders on Sunday characterized Hillary Clinton's latest tax plans as tentative half-steps that sound Republican-lite, escalating the sparring between the Democratic presidential campaigns over their respective commitments to helping the middle class.

In Iowa today Hillary Clinton will propose a \$6,000 tax credit for costs associated with caring for disabled and elderly family members.

Following Clinton's opening remarks when she detailed her tax plans, guests at the town hall meeting were given an opportunity to share a few of their concerns with the presidential candidate.

Clinton proposed a new tax break to help people who are caring for parents and grandparents.

One of the people who attended the town hall, Lavinia Engle, of Clinton, said she backed Clinton in 2008 and is doing so again this time because she has the most experience.

Apart from the tax breaks, Clinton also proposed to extend additional Social Security benefits to people who have to give up work in order to care for their immediate family.

Explaining the reasoning behind the proposal, Brian Fallon, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, said, "She has proposed both new spending and targeted tax cuts".

"That will help family budgets stretch, it will help seniors maintain independence", Clinton said on Sunday at a campaign stop in Iowa, which holds the first nominating contests in February. The bill would be funded by an increase in payroll taxes estimated to cost the average worker about \$72 a year.

Mr. Sanders' proposal would replace the Affordable Care Act with a single-payer system in which the government, not private insurers, would pay for health care claims. "Perhaps she reasons that as upset as the rank and file might be, they would be more upset if a Republican" wins the White House, said Christopher Preble of the Cato Institute in Washington. Support for Sen. Sanders is up thirteen percent, and support for former Sec. of State Clinton has gone up by three percent in the past month.

Which is not to say that there is clear sailing ahead for Ms. Clinton, whose strong position may be more attributable to her lack of opposition than to her lack of vulnerability. "He's a teacher. He takes his mother to work with him", she said at the Iowa Jefferson-Jackson dinner in October. "I think we are smart enough to figure in that out". Clinton and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley also addressed the crowd separately.

Organized labor took a major step in coalescing around Hillary Rodham Clinton on Tuesday, as one of its heavyweights voted to endorse her despite loud objections from backers of her rival and longtime labor stalwart Bernie Sanders.