

COMMON GROUND FOUND

Potential Common Ground was Identified, then verified with the Panelists as either **CLARIFICATION** or **AGREEMENT(S)**.

INCOME INEQUALITY

CLARIFICATION:

- Whatever the income inequality, the issue is economic growth and the equality of opportunity
 - Larry believes everyone starts with a constitutional “equality of opportunity,” so he prefers not to characterize this as income inequality
 - Jared believes cultural and other factors limit the “equality of opportunity,” so income inequality is a significant issue

AGREEMENTS:

- Where there is inequality of opportunity, that is where government economic policy can make a difference
- A key part of dealing with income inequality is policies that foster economic growth- reform the tax code with no favoritism
- We need to smooth out the cliffs / drop-offs for programs qualifications
- The Common Ground Committee with the Christian Science Monitor could credibly research facts about impact on tax reductions on economic growth

COMMON GROUND FOUND

KEY AREA 1. FAMILIES & EDUCATION

FAMILY: Economic Policy

AGREEMENTS:

- Policies should not incent the break up of marriages. In some cases marriage supports income opportunities for two wage earners.
- Do away with the marriage penalty (legislated away through 2017, but then is reinstated)
- Earned income tax credit is pro-work and lifts income for those most needing it

CLARIFICATION:

- Anti-poverty policy has massively shifted to incent work, especially in the 1990's
 - Jared asserts this
 - Larry sees only a limited shift with much more needed



COMMON GROUND FOUND

KEY AREA 1. FAMILIES & EDUCATION

EDUCATION:

AGREEMENTS:

- Critical role of schools in equalizing opportunity
- Parents should have freedom of choice
- Charter schools may be a valuable option for choice
- May be option to have schools reflect range of income classes

CLARIFICATION:

- Income inequality is pre-tax issue related to stagnant earnings, which relates back to economic growth
 - Jared asserts this
 - Larry emphasizes the importance of economic growth, based more on after-tax income that reflects both transfer payments and social net payments

COMMON GROUND FOUND

Economic Policies for Equal Economic Opportunity

AGREEMENTS:

- Reform the tax code (such as lower corporate rates), and ensure other tax codes have work incentives
- Ensure tax code isn't based on favoritism (special interests)
- The Fed is probably helping not hurting economic growth
- Make Infrastructure improvements over a period of time
- Support the Keystone pipeline and similar pipeline efforts

CLARIFICATION:

- Even well-intended programs, such as unemployment & Obamacare, have inadvertent perverse incentives that undermine work
 - Larry asserts this
 - Jared disagrees and believes programs vary impacts vary

AGREEMENT:

- The CCG with the CSM could credibly research:
 - Determine whether or not key specific government programs adversely impact the number of people seeking work



COMMON GROUND FOUND

FINAL SUMMARY OF AGREEMENTS

INCOME INEQUALITY

- ✓1. Where there is inequality of opportunity, government economic policy can make a difference
- ✓2. A key way to deal with income inequality / equal economic opportunity is through policies that foster economic growth
- ✓3. We need to smooth out the cliffs in programs

FAMILY & EDUCATION:

- ✓4. Policies should not incent the break up of marriages. In some cases marriage supports income opportunities for two wage earners. The earned income tax credit is pro-work and lifts income for those most needing it
- ✓5. Do away with the marriage penalty (legislated away through 2017, but then is reinstated)

SOCIAL & JOB MOBILITY

- ✓6. Government programs should reflect pro-work, or at least no anti-work, incentives

Economic Policies for Equal Economic Opportunity

- ✓7. Reform the tax code (lower corporate rates), and ensure other tax codes have work incentives
- ✓8. Ensure the tax code isn't based on favoritism (special interests)
- ✓9. The Fed is probably helping not hurting economic growth
- ✓10. Make Infrastructure improvements over a period of time. For example, support the Keystone pipeline and similar pipeline efforts

