

Middle class left behind

The core of the Republican agenda involves three goals: To lessen regulation on big business; reduce taxes on big business and the wealthy; and cut government spending on social programs to reduce the deficit.

The last of these goals is usually accompanied by Republican tax cuts for the “job creators” that eat up most of the savings from the spending cuts that could be used to reduce deficits.

The basic idea behind these goals is that the more big business and the wealthy prosper, the more money the wealthy will have to create jobs and prosperity for everyone else and that the increased prosperity that is created should make up for the lower tax rates for the rich. As Mitt Romney has conveyed a number of times, he does not know anyone who has been hired for a job by a poor person.

That sounds convincing, but it is not true. The incomes for the top 1 percent of income-earners have nearly tripled over the past 30 years. If the conservative right’s argument was true, the middle class should have prospered as well, and we should be well on our way to eliminating government debt.

The conservative right can argue all it wants that that hasn’t happened because of liberal influences, but it’s clear that the conservatives’ goals of cutting regulations and cutting taxes for the rich have been achieved. Big business and the wealthy have prospered. The middle class American has not.

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