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OPINION Trickle Down Tax Cuts: A Broken Record

Congress should invest in our future

BY LEW PRINCE

I'm one of those "job creators" members of Congress profess to admire so much. Thirty-two

years ago, my partner and I started a small business with \$300 worth of old records and a booth at the local farmers market. We're now the biggest independent music store in St. Louis and employ 22 people. Our annual revenue is around \$2 million. We're a classic American success story.

small business owners, which learn from a Congressional Budmeans we're not in the top tax brackets. We've always been at inflation-adjusted incomes for the or below the 25 percent tax bracket. So we're trying to figure out how a new Congressional tax proposal is supposed

create jobs.

individual and corporate tax rates from 35 percent to 25 percent. It would reward U.S. multinational corporations that have gamed the system with a 5,25 percent tax rate on U.S. profits they have disguised as "foreign" earnings. All this will be great for gigantic multinational corporations, Wall Street and the fat cats who attend those \$1,000-aplate and up political fundraisers. It will be great for the corporate lobbyists gaming our political system every day.

It won't help small business, and it won't help America.

This proposal would give massive new tax cuts to America's largest corporations and wealthi-Our incomes are typical for est families and comes as we get Office report that after-tax richest one percent of Americans skyrocketed 275 percent medical expenses. between 1979 and 2007.

to 25 percent benefits America's George W. Bush had the worst grandkids lies in better educa-The proposal would cut top small business owners. Most job creation record since 1939. small business owners wouldn't What trickled down were ecosee a penny of tax cuts under nomic meltdown, foreclosures, this proposal.

Anyone who thinks lowering my tax rate would affect hiring knows diddlysquat about running a business. I hire more workers if I think I'll do more business. The costs of finding, hiring and paying new employees are business expenses. taxable income. Any business paying taxes on these expenses needs to fire their accountant.

The biggest challenge facing my business isn't the taxes we pay. It's the decline in customer demand and the continued hollowing out of our middle class, our infrastructure and our when my customers sell record collections built over a lifetime,

We've tried trickle-down tax for more tax cuts at the top. Tax-cut advocates want us to cuts to create jobs. How'd that to help small businesses like ours believe that cutting the top rate work out? Tax-Cutter-in-Chief,

unemployment, budget cuts and business closures.

When Congress proposes stimulating the economy with more tax cuts for those who are far ahead of the rest of us, they do nothing to help my customers ment to come from, if not from or my business. When the wealthy get more tax cuts, it They're deducted up-front from transfers the burden of paying for government services to businesses like mine, and to my customers, already living paycheck to paycheck.

If members of Congress want to help small business, they should choose policies that actually create jobs. St. Louis, like many cities, laid off teachers, first respondeconomy. It breaks my heart ers and construction workers the people who spend money locally, and who we need for a to pay their rent, heating bills or healthy economy. The last thing we need is more cutbacks to pay

> Job creation today and a brighter future for our kids and Louis.

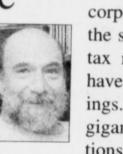
tion, 21st Century infrastructure, universal broadband and renewable energy. How do the advocates of more tax cuts for the affluent expect to compete with emerging economic superpowers if we don't invest in our nation's future? Where do they expect money for that investthose who have profited most from the investment our parents and grandparents made to build the nation they handed us?

Trickle-down economics has been a miserable failure. It delivered economic ruin for many, and riches for a few. It hasn't brought shared prosperity, but driven us farther apart. It increased the economic and political power of Wall Street and Big Business over Main Street and small business.

Trickle-down economics is a broken record. It's time to let it go.

Lew Prince is managing partner of Vintage Vinyl, an independent music store in St.

Saga Not Over Yet in Jackson's Death

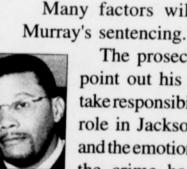


What should doctor's sentence be?

BY JUDGE GREG MATHIS Dr. Conrad Murray was

found guilty of involuntary man- Michael's family in an attempt to slaughter in the death of super star entertainer Michael Jackson. With the verdict, the jury brought some level of closure to an event that stunned the world.

Murray's sentencing hearing begins Nov. 29. He could receive anything from probation to up to four years in prison for his actions.



secure a longer sentence. Murray's defense team will point to the absence of a criminal history and may argue that the doctor was pressured by Jackson to But the saga is not over yet. provide the deadly treatments. it is possible that Murray may not see any prison time.

point out his refusal to take responsibility for his

role in Jackson's death, and the emotional impact the crime has had on

Though it may be unthinkable,

California District Attorney Steve Cooley said that it would

Many factors will go into be difficult to appropriately sentence because of overcrowding The prosecution will in California's prisons. Even if Murray does get jail time, a new California sentencing law that seeks to reduce overcrowding in prisons will ultimately affect the time he serves.

> If sentenced to prison, Murray would most likely serve his time in county jail. That same overcrowding could also result in Murray being sentenced to house arrest.

As a doctor, Murray knew that what he was doing was unethical and was not in the best interest of the patient. By handing down the stiffest sentence possible, the judge would be demonstrating that it recognizes the ter or comment on the official long term effect Murray's behavior will have on Jackson's parents, siblings and, most importantly, his children.

with @judgegregmathis on Twit- provided hope to millions.

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Judge Mathis is a longtime advocate for equal justice. His What should Murray's sen- life story of a street youth who tence be? Share your responses rose from jail to judge has

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