

**Campaign Money Watch**  
**TV Ad: Clout**

**Background Information to Validate Facts in the Ad**

Male Announcer: **Mitch McConnell says he's got clout in Washington**

“Instead of talking about the economy, McConnell touted his clout as Senate Republican leader. He pointed to his seniority, accumulated over four terms, in what has become a major theme in his toughest re-election fight.” [Source: “McConnell Says His Clout Aids Kentucky,” *The Lexington Herald-Leader*, October 17, 2008.]

“The Republican Leader of the Senate touts his seniority and ability to direct federal funding to Kentucky and says the state should not trade that clout for a freshman senator.” [Source: Ronnie Ellis, “Cleland Campaigns for Lunsford,” CNHI News Service, October 18, 2008.]

Female Announcer: **But what's that mean for us?**

Male Announcer: **He took 2 million from drug and insurance interests and voted to stop Medicare from negotiating lower drug prices.**

***FACT: McConnell voted 'No' against permitting negotiation of Medicare drug prices.***

CITATION: Roll Call #132, 2007, S.3; Roll Call #60, 2005, S.Amdt. 214 to S.Con.Res. 18.

***FACT: Through June 30, 2008, McConnell had received \$1.41 million from executives and PACs from the HMO and insurance industry and \$574,211 from the pharmaceutical industry. The total amount is \$1.98 million.***

CITATION: Campaign finance are based on Campaign Money Watch's analysis of data obtained from the Center for Responsive Politics, a non-partisan organization that tracks and codes campaign finance data by industry and tracks lobbying. Campaign finance data include individual contributions (\$200+) and from Political Action Committees (PACs) to campaign committees and leadership PACs.

Female Announcer: **That's some clout**

Male Announcer: **He took 1.3 million from Wall Street interests, and voted to risk your Social Security in the stock market.**

***FACT: McConnell has voted at least twice in favor of setting up private personal accounts and has advocated them as an “extraordinarily good investment.”***

CITATION: “Meanwhile, senators may have shored up conservative support for the budget with the 51-49 adoption of an amendment by Roth calling on the Finance Committee to draft legislation dedicating any budget surpluses to creation of Social Security personal retirement accounts.” McConnell voted ‘Yes’ in favor of personal accounts. (“Senate GOP Conservatives Criticize Budget Resolution,” *National Journal’s Congress Daily*, April 2, 1998) McConnell voted “Yes.” Roll Call #56, 1998, S.Amdt. 2209 to S.Con.Res. 86.

“Eight Republicans joined all 45 Democrats in opposing the DeMint amendment, which would have directed the creation of a reserve fund for Social Security, but only after the Senate produced legislation allowing younger workers to divert a portion of their Social Security taxes into personal investment accounts or permitting some other type of “legally binding ownership” of a worker’s Social Security money.” McConnell voted ‘Yes’ in favor of personal accounts. (Emily Pierce, “Private Account Language Fails,” *Roll Call*, March 20, 2006). McConnell voted “Yes.” Roll Call #68, 2006, S.Amdt. 3087 to S.Con.Res. 83.

CITATION: On Meet the Press in 2005, McConnell called private Social Security accounts “an extraordinarily good investment.”

Transcript:

Mr. Russert: What does private personal accounts do to fix the solvency problem? I don’t understand that.

Sen. McConnell: What personal accounts are is an extraordinarily good investment. Let’s take a 25-year-old, for example. Invests \$1,000 in regular Social Security, gets a 2 percent return over 40 years, he gets \$61,000. That same young person investing that same \$1,000 in a personal retirement account, looking at the average return on investment of the stock market, would get \$100,000 more. Why don’t we at least discuss that in the context of the overall effort to save Social Security for our children and our grandchildren?

NBC, "Meet the Press," March 6, 2005.

***FACT: Through June, 30, 2008, McConnell and his leadership PAC have received \$1.3 million in campaign contributions from Wall Street and securities and investment interests.***

[Note: Since producing the ad, we have recalculated that McConnell has actually received \$1,494,712 in campaign contributions from this industry.]

CITATION: Campaign finance figures are based on Campaign Money Watch's analysis of data obtained from the Center for Responsive Politics, a non-partisan organization that tracks and codes campaign finance data by industry and tracks lobbying. Campaign finance data include individual contributions (\$200+) and from Political Action Committees (PACs) to campaign committees and leadership PACs.

Female Announcer: **Yep, that's 'clout'**

Male Announcer: **So if McConnell has so much clout...**

Female Announcer: **...why isn't he using it for us?**

Male Announcer: **Call McConnell to tell him stop using his clout to oppose Fair Elections Now.**

Female Announcer: **Public Campaign Action Fund's Campaign Money Watch is responsible for the content of this advertising.**