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CONTACT: Denise Cardinal
651-647-2643(o)
612-269-9276(c)

Bachmann's Biggest Mistake is a Hug and Kiss? *Comments on MPR Show Bachmann Out of Touch*

Saint Paul, Minn. --- Below is a statement from Denise Cardinal, Executive Director of Alliance for a Better Minnesota, referring to a Minnesota Public Radio story that ran this morning. The web version reads:

“...[Bachmann] said getting three bills passed as a first-term member of the minority party was her biggest accomplishment.

And her biggest mistake? Bachmann points to that well-documented embrace of President Bush after his 2007 State of the Union Address.”

“Her biggest mistake is hugging and kissing President Bush?” said Denise Cardinal, Executive Director of Alliance for a Better Minnesota. “Not that she voted against tax incentives for clean energy, not that she voted against health care coverage for kids, not that she voted against the minimum wage. Not that in addition to kissing Bush – she supported him 89 percent of the time.

“Michele Bachmann is out of touch, and an embarrassment. Her biggest mistake was failing to stand up for middle-class Minnesotans. She should stand up for us, not for Bush.”

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Alliance for a Better Minnesota is a Minnesota-based online advocacy and communications organization working to provide cutting edge online tools for working families. ABM is focused primarily on securing major advances in progressive public policy for Minnesota.

Alliance For A Better Minnesota
1600 University Avenue W., Suite 309B, Saint Paul, MN 55104
(651) 647-2643 and (651) 647-2653
www.allianceminnesota.org

Bachmann's Biggest Mistake: ***An Embarrassing Record of Standing with Bush and Ignoring the Middle Class***

Representative Michele Bachmann recently said that her biggest mistake was her embarrassing embrace of George Bush after his 2007 State of the Union Address. Sadly, Michele Bachmann's biggest mistake was her embrace of George Bush on the major issues that affect the lives of Minnesotans. From embracing Bush's failed economic policies to his disastrous health care agenda, Michele Bachmann has failed to stand up for middle class Minnesotans.

Bachmann Out of Touch and Failed to Stand Up for the Middle Class

"We're the workingest state in the country, and the reason why we are, we have more people that are working longer hours, we have people that are working two jobs." -Michele Bachmann, 1/16/08

Bachmann Voted Against Raising the Minimum Wage. Michele Bachmann voted against the "Fair Minimum Wage Act," which increased the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour over two years. It would increase the minimum wage in three increments. Sixty days after enactment, the minimum wage is to be raised to \$5.85. A year after that it will be \$6.55, and a year after that it will be \$7.25. This is the first change to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 since 1997 when the minimum wage was increased from \$4.75 to \$5.15. [[HR 2](#), Vote #18, 1/10/07; [Washington Post Votes Database](#)]

Bachmann Called for Eliminating the Minimum Wage. Michele Bachmann has argued for abolishing the minimum wage. Bachmann even claimed that eliminating the minimum wage would "potentially virtually wipe out unemployment completely because we would be able to offer jobs at whatever level." [Star Tribune, 11/19/06; Associated Press, 5/6/06; Pioneer Press, 10/17/06; Jobs, Energy and Community Development Committee Hearing, 1/26/05]

Bachmann Chose Tax Cuts for Big Oil Over Tax Cuts for Middle Class Americans. In 2008, Bachmann voted against the Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008, which would add a projected \$2,400 per return to the 2008 tax bills of four million middle-income filers. To offset the Treasury's loss of \$61.5 billion in revenue, the bill would, in part, repeal certain tax breaks for oil and gas companies; change "carried interest" rules so that managers of investment partnerships and hedge funds would pay taxes at a 35 percent rather than 15 percent rate; and set the stage for more timely tax collection on payments from credit card firms to merchants. [HR 6275, [Vote #455](#), 6/25/08; Pioneer Press, 6/28/08; Washington Post, 7/6/08]

Bachmann Voted to Make Bush's Tax Cuts Permanent. In 2008, Michele Bachmann voted for a Republican amendment that would have made George Bush's tax cuts permanent. The amendment failed 157-263. Bachmann and Kline were the only Minnesota members to vote for this amendment. [HR Con Res 312, [Vote #140](#), 3/13/08; Pioneer Press, 3/15/08]

Bachmann Stood with Bush, Voted Against Children's Health Insurance

Bachmann Took \$146,650 from the Pharmaceutical Industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, [10/16/08](#)]

Bachmann Repeatedly Voted Against Health Care for America's Children. In 2007, Bachmann voted four times against versions of legislation that would renew the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The legislation would extend health coverage to over four million additional people, in addition to the 6.6 million already enrolled. One of the four votes included a vote to uphold President

Bush's veto. [Vote #1009, [10/25/07](#); Vote #982, [10/18/07](#); Vote # 906, [9/25/07](#); Vote #787, [8/1/07](#); Washington Post, [10/3/07](#), [10/25/07](#)]

Bachmann Stood with Bush, Voted to Uphold Second Bush Veto of SCHIP. All five of Minnesota's DFL representatives in the House of Representatives voted to override the president's veto, as did Republican Representative Jim Ramstad. The veto-override attempt failed to garner the necessary two-thirds majority. All but one of the 152 votes to sustain the president's veto were cast by Republicans. [Vote #22, 1/23/08]

SCHIP Legislation Would Expand Health Insurance for 30,000 Minnesota Children. The SCHIP program currently provides health insurance coverage for more than six million children nationwide. This legislation would allow for an additional 30,000 Minnesota children to obtain health insurance through this program. It's estimated that Minnesota currently has almost 80,000 uninsured children. [Families USA, 9/25/07; Children's Defense Fund—Minnesota, 2007]

Legislation Would Insure Additional Four Million Children Nationwide. "The legislation that Bush vetoed would have increased enrollment in the children's health program from 6 million to 10 million over the coming five years. The revenue needed for that enrollment increase would come from a 61-cent increase in the federal excise tax on a pack of cigarettes, as well as comparable tax increases on other tobacco products ... In December, Bush for a second time vetoed a bill that would more than double spending on SCHIP ... The president vetoed a similar bill in October." [AP, 1/23/08]

In the Pocket of Big Oil, Bachmann Supported Bush's Failed Energy Policy

Bachmann has Taken \$55,200 from Oil and Gas Industries. [Center for Responsive Politics, [10/16/08](#)]

2008: Bachmann Voted Against Tax Credits for Renewable Energy. In May 2008, Bachman voted against the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008, which included incentives for the production of electricity from renewable resources to help limit the environmental consequences of continued reliance on power generated by using fossil fuels. The bill would also extend the 30 percent investment tax credit for solar energy property and qualified fuel cell property and the 10 percent investment tax credit for microturbines for six years. [Democratic Policy Committee, [6/9/08](#); [Speaker of the House Report](#); HR 6049, Vote #344, [5/21/08](#)]

2008: Bachmann Voted to Protect \$18 Billion in Tax Breaks for Big Oil, Opposed Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008. In February 2008, Bachmann voted against the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Act of 2008, which would repeal roughly \$18 billion in manufacturing tax credits for oil and gas companies while extending and increasing tax credits for a wide range of renewable energy programs. [House Passed [HR 5351](#) on [2/27/08](#); [Speaker of the House Report](#)]

2007: Bachmann Voted Against Historic Energy Legislation to Reduce Dependence on Foreign Oil. Rep. Michele Bachmann voted against H.R. 6, the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007, which would: increase fuel-efficiency standards by 40%, for first time since 1975, saving 1.1 million barrels of oil per day by 2020; require 15% of utility-generated energy to be renewable; impose higher energy-efficiency standards on appliances and light bulbs; and impose a renewable-fuels standard. Its \$21 billion cost is paid for in large measure by scaling back \$13 billion in tax benefits for five largest oil companies. All Minnesota Democrats, and Republican Representative Jim Ramstad, voted for the bill. [Vote #1140, [12/6/07](#); Washington Post, [12/6/07](#); New York Times, [12/7/07](#)]