

Kennedy Adwatch

Title:	Why
Type:	:30 TV

<p>WOMAN: Aren't You Mark Kennedy?</p> <p>KENNEDY: Yes, ma'am.</p> <p>WOMAN: Why are you picking on Amy Klobuchar?</p> <p>KENNEDY: What?</p> <p>WOMAN: Saying that she gave out all those plea bargains,</p>	<p><u>FACT:</u> Klobuchar's Office Has Increased Criminal Jury Trials By 50 Percent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Average, Klobuchar's Office Now Has 50 Percent More Criminal Jury Trials Each Year. According to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office July 2006 Progress Report, "On average, we now have 50 percent more criminal jury trials each year." [Hennepin County Attorney's Office Progress Report July 2006, accessed 9/25/06] <p><u>FACT:</u> Klobuchar's Office Has Secured Tough Gun Offender Sentences More Often Than The State Average.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Klobuchar's Office Won Tough Sentences For Gun Offenders More Often Than The Statewide Average. Last year, Klobuchar's office enforced tough sentencing laws against gun offenders 20% more often than the rest of the state. In Hennepin County, 75.6 percent of convicted gun offenders received the state mandated sentence, while that number statewide was only 63 percent. [MN Sentencing Guidelines Commission Reports To the Legislature, January 2006] • Over Her Tenure In Office, Klobuchar's Office Has Secured Enhanced Sentences More Often Than The Statewide Average. Klobuchar's office has secured enhanced sentences against gun offenders at a greater rate than the statewide average throughout her tenure as County Attorney. The average percentage of cases that received the mandated sentence under the gun offender statute in Hennepin County was 72.34 percent. Statewide over the same period, only 66 percent of cases received the state mandated sentence. [MN Sentencing Guidelines Commission Reports To the Legislature, 2000-2006] <p><u>FACT:</u> Klobuchar's Office Has Aggressively Focused On Career Offenders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon Taking Office, Klobuchar Prioritized The Use Of The Career Offender Statute. In 2001, Klobuchar's office was cited in the Minnesota Legislative Auditor's report on chronic offenders: "In 1997, judges cited the career offender statute as a basis for their upward durational departures in 17 felony cases. This number grew to 26 in 1998 and 46 in 1999. Most of the growth is attributable to an <i>increase in Hennepin County, where a new county attorney made use of the career offender statute a priority.</i>" [Minnesota Legislative Auditor Report on Chronic Offenders February 2001, accessed 9/21/06] <p><u>FACT:</u> Klobuchar's Office Has Achieved High Conviction Rates.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hennepin County’s Conviction Rate Was 91 Percent For 2004-2005. In 2004-2005, The Hennepin County Attorney’s Office had a conviction rate of 91 percent. According to the <i>Star Tribune</i>, “Nationally, larger counties are expected to maintain conviction rates above 80 percent.” [Star Tribune, 8/7/06] • Klobuchar’s Office Achieved A 90.57 Percent Average Conviction Rate From 2000 To 2006. According to a memo from the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office, the office achieved an average conviction rate of 90.57 percent from 2000 to 2006 (partial data for 2006) for adult criminal cases. [Hennepin County Attorney’s Office Memo from Pete Cahill, Chief Deputy County Attorney, 8/10/06]
<p>WOMAN:...and that she will ration our prescription drugs?</p>	<p><u>FACT:</u> Amy Klobuchar Has Advocated For The Negotiation of Drug Prices, Not Rationing Drugs For Seniors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Klobuchar Advocated For Negotiating Drug Prices, Not Rationing Drugs For Seniors. In response to Kennedy’s accusation that Klobuchar wanted to ration drugs to seniors at the AARP debate, Klobuchar said, “I’m not talking about rationing, I’m talking about negotiation for prices...” [AARP Debate, 9/19/06] <p><u>FACT:</u> On Prescription Drugs, Mark Kennedy Is In The Pocket Of The Big Drug Companies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kennedy Voted Against Allowing Reimporting RX Drugs From Canada. In 2003, Kennedy voted against a motion to insist that the House Medicare bill allow for reimportation of prescription drugs from Canada. The House agreed to this motion 237-176, with the support of 74 Republicans. [HR 2673, Vote #624, 11/18/03] • Kennedy Supported A Law That “Prohibits” Medicare From Negotiating Drug Prices Directly With Manufacturers. In 2003, Kennedy voted for sweeping changes to Medicare that will give billions of dollars to businesses and the health care industry, while forcing seniors to accept annual increases in premiums and deductibles and a growing gap in coverage for the prescription drugs they buy. The bill prevented Medicare from negotiating drug prices. According to their website, “AARP is calling on Congress to change a section of the new Medicare drug benefit law that prohibits the government from negotiating prescription drug prices directly with the manufacturers—a provision that has sparked widespread anger among older Americans.”[PL 108-173, 12/8/2003; Associated Press, 11/26/03; Washington Post, 11/24/03; AARP, February 2004] ▶ Pharmaceutical Industry Opposed Medicare Negotiation For Lower Drug Prices. In 2003, <i>USA Today</i> said that Medicare drug price negotiation was “opposed by the pharmaceutical industry, one of the most powerful and well-financed lobbies, which would lose profits[.]” [USA Today, 6/18/03] ▶ Pharmaceutical Industry Fought To Prevent Medicare Drug Price Negotiation. In 2003, the <i>New York Times</i>

	<p>reported that the pharmaceutical industry “had a single goal: to defeat any legislation that would let Medicare negotiate steep discounts on the prices of medicines for its 40 million beneficiaries.” [New York Times, 9/5/03]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Was “Tailor-Made” To Pharmaceutical Industry’s Specifications. In 2003, the <i>New York Times</i> said, “a Republican-controlled Congress is preparing to send a Republican president a measure with a central provision -- the use of private health plans to deliver Medicare prescription drug benefits -- that is tailor-made to the industry's specifications. The story of how pharmaceutical manufacturers helped shape the Medicare drug benefit is, in part, that of a calculated decision by a lucrative industry to throw its financial weight behind one political party -- with \$50 million in campaign contributions over the last four years, the vast majority to Republicans.” [New York Times, 9/5/03] • 2003: Kennedy Voted Against Lower Drug Prices, Allowing Drug Reimportation, And More Coverage For Low-Income Seniors. In 2003, Kennedy voted against a motion to allow the Health and Human Services secretary to negotiate lower drug prices; eliminate "premium support;" ease requirements for importation of drugs from Canada; and allow Medicaid to supplement Medicare coverage for the low-income elderly and disabled. The House rejected this motion 211-222. [HR 1, Vote #668, 11/22/03] • While In Congress, Kennedy Has Taken \$138,500 From Pharmaceutical Manufacturer PACs. [www.opensecrets.org, as of 10/4/06]
<p>WOMAN:... You said she wants to raise social security taxes...</p>	<p><u>FACT:</u> Amy Klobuchar Has A Real Plan To Protect And Preserve Social Security – And It Doesn’t Involve Raising Taxes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Klobuchar: “Paying Down The Debt Actually Has A Benefit Nobody Talks About Much These Days: It Allows Us To Protect Social Security Without The Need For Tax Increases, Raising Wage Caps Or Cutting Benefits.” In August 2006, Klobuchar discussed her plan for deficit reduction and said, “We should start paying down the debt instead of running it up. Then we should then resume using part of the surplus to protect Social Security. In fact, paying down the debt actually has a benefit nobody talks about much these days: it allows us to protect social security without the need for tax increases, raising wage caps or cutting benefits. If that's not a good reason to changing course, I don't know what is.” [Klobuchar Budget Deficit Speech, 8/29/06] <p><u>FACT:</u> Mark Kennedy Supports Private Social Security Accounts and Budgets That Have Raided the Social Security Trust Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2000: Mark Kennedy Backed Private Accounts. As a candidate in 2000 and during his first term in Congress, Kennedy supported private investment of Social Security funds. The CATO institute asked the question "Do you favor or oppose Social Security reform that would allow workers to save a portion of their payroll taxes in a personal

	<p>retirement account?" CATO listed Kennedy as "Favor." [CATO Institute: Congressional and Senatorial Candidates' Position on Social Security Reform, 2000]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2001, Kennedy Has Supported Federal Budgets That Have Raided Billions From The Social Security Trust Fund. According to the White House Office of Management and Budget, from 2001 through 2006, the Congress and the Bush administration have raided a total of \$920 billion in Social Security Trust Fund surpluses. Kennedy voted for the budgets in these years. [H Con Res 95, Vote #149, 4/28/05; H Con Res 83, Vote #104, 5/9/01; H Con Res 353, Vote #79, 3/20/02; H Con Res 95, Vote #141, 4/11/03; S Con Res 95, Vote #198, 5/19/04; HCR 376, Vote #158, 5/18/06; White House OMB Historical Budget Table]
<p>WOMAN:...and will give social security to illegal immigrants. Why did you say all those things?</p>	<p><u>FACT:</u> Amy Klobuchar Does Not Support Social Security Benefits To Illegal Immigrants... And Mark Kennedy Knows It.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Klobuchar: "I Would Have Voted In Favor Of An Amendment That Would Have Made Sure We Weren't Paying Social Security Benefits To Illegal Immigrants." At the AARP debate in St. Paul on September 19 attended by both Mark Kennedy and Amy Klobuchar, Klobuchar said, "I would have voted in favor of an amendment that would have made sure we weren't paying social security benefits to illegal immigrants." Klobuchar was referring to a May 18, 2006 procedural vote on an amendment by Sen. John Ensign (R-NV) to prohibit undocumented aliens from getting Social Security credit for work before they obtained legal status. [S.2611, CQ Vote #130, 5/18/06; AARP Senate Debate, 9/19/06]
<p>KENNEDY: Because they're true.</p> <p>WOMAN: They are?</p> <p>KENNEDY: They are.</p> <p>WOMAN: Oh, nevermind.</p> <p>KENNEDY: I'm Mark Kennedy, and I approved this message.</p>	<p><u>FACT:</u> Mark Kennedy's Claims Simply Aren't True.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Klobuchar has been a tough and successful prosecutor, increasing criminal jury trials by 50 percent and securing tougher sentences for repeat offenders. • Amy Klobuchar has a plan for affordable prescription drugs, not rationing. • Amy Klobuchar has a plan to protect and preserve Social Security without raising Social Security taxes by balancing the budget • Amy Klobuchar does not support Social Security benefits for illegal immigrants and Mark Kennedy knows it.