

Obama taking collectivist tack on business

From the political notebook:
» Barack Obama may have inadvertently framed the presidential campaign with remarks he made while campaigning in Virginia a little over a week ago.

In making his usual case that successful people haven't become that way on their own, Obama used a formulation that will be endlessly repeated and parsed for the remainder of the political season. This is the official White House transcript of what he said:
"Somebody helped to create



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this unbelievable American system that we have that allowed you to thrive. Somebody invested in roads and bridges. If you've got a business — you didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen."

There's been more attention to the word "that" in that for-

mulation than to any word since Bill Clinton pondered the deeper epistemological mystery of "is."

Republicans pounced on the statement, claiming that the "that" refers to "business" and Obama was saying business owners didn't build their own businesses.

I think that's nonsense. From Obama's delivery, the "that" pretty clearly refers to "roads and bridges" in the previous sentence.

But it doesn't really matter. The entire riff was a denigration of the centrality of individ-

ual initiative in individual achievement. According to Obama, people don't succeed because they are smart and hardworking. That's not what distinguishes those who succeed from those who don't. He said that pretty plainly.

Now, there's a certain amount of truism to what Obama is saying.

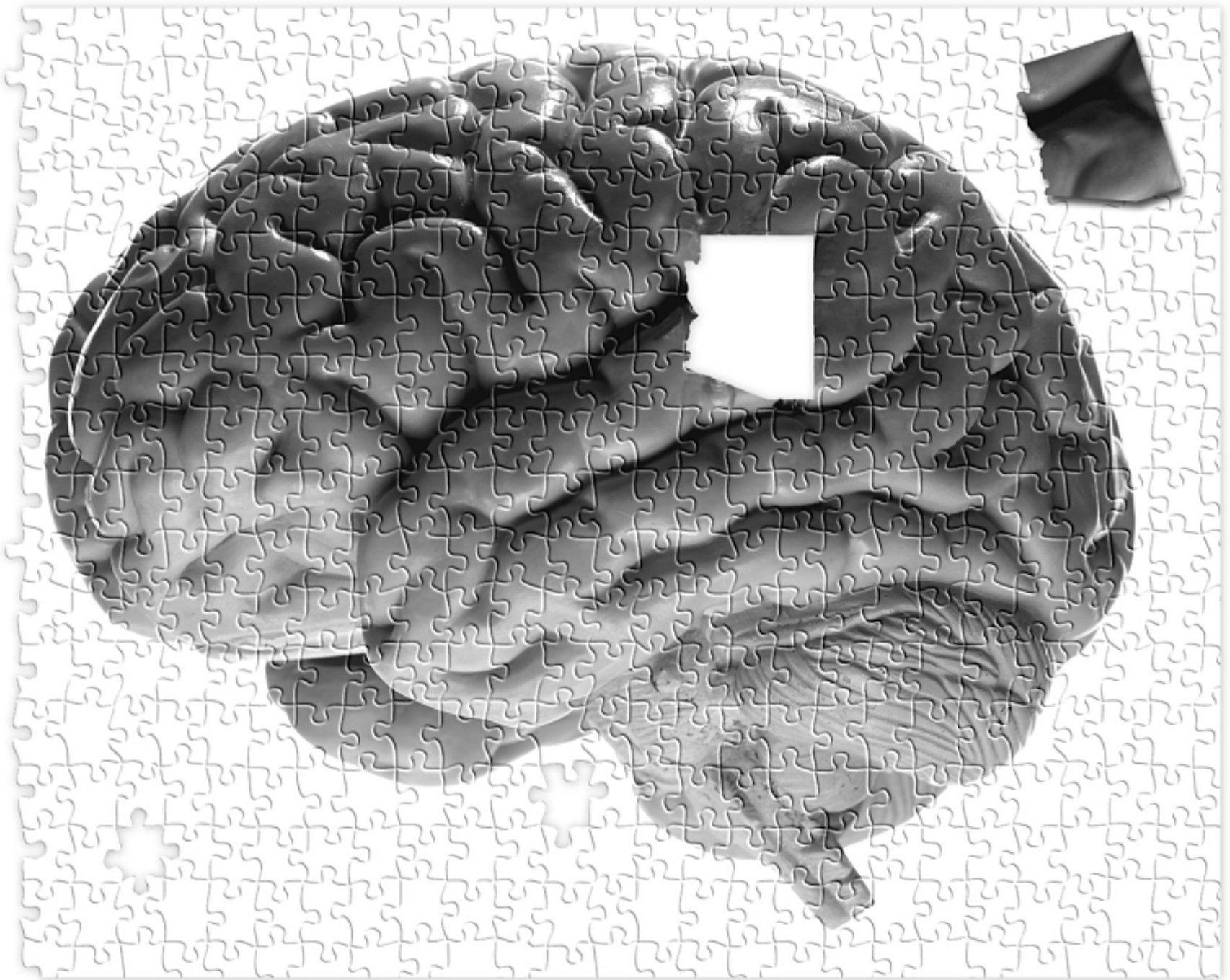
Individuals do depend on living and working within a system in which individual initiative can matter. And that system is, for the most part, collectively provided through government. But it's fatuous

for him to suggest this is something that somehow divides the parties.

Rep. Paul Ryan's budget would increase federal spending from \$3.6 trillion to \$4.9 trillion over 10 years. At the end of the 10 years, federal spending would still be 20 percent of GDP. That's still a whole lot of collective providing.

But it's becoming increasingly clear that Obama believes that what we do collectively is at least as impor-

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The Alzheimer's puzzle

Arizona researchers are a key force in fight to unlock secrets of a killer

The diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease may no longer signal a hopeless, heartbreaking journey into darkness for patients and their families, marked by a relentless loss of memory, identity, function and, ultimately, life. Today, in part because of key research and unprecedented collaboration done in Arizona, there is reason for hope that significant progress can be made against the devastation that is Alzheimer's.

One of the turning points in the fight against Alzheimer's disease can be traced back to a study reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1996. Arizona researchers informed the world that imaging technology could be used to detect Alzheimer's disease many years before the onset of the devastating symptoms in individ-



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uals at genetic risk for the disease. They raised the possibility of using this technology to rapidly test promising prevention therapies, and they highlighted the progress that could be made when researchers from different disciplines and organizations work together.

Fast-forward to today and an impressive gathering of institutions and researchers has coalesced within a unique

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ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE BY THE NUMBERS IN ARIZONA

- » **78,000:** Number of Arizonans with Alzheimer's disease in 2000.
- » **130,000:** Number of Arizonans expected to have the disease in 2025.
- » **298,050:** Number of Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers in 2011.
- » **339,418,784:** Total hours of unpaid care in 2011.
- » **\$4.1 billion:** Total value of unpaid care in 2011.
- » **2,099:** Total number of deaths from Alzheimer's in 2008.

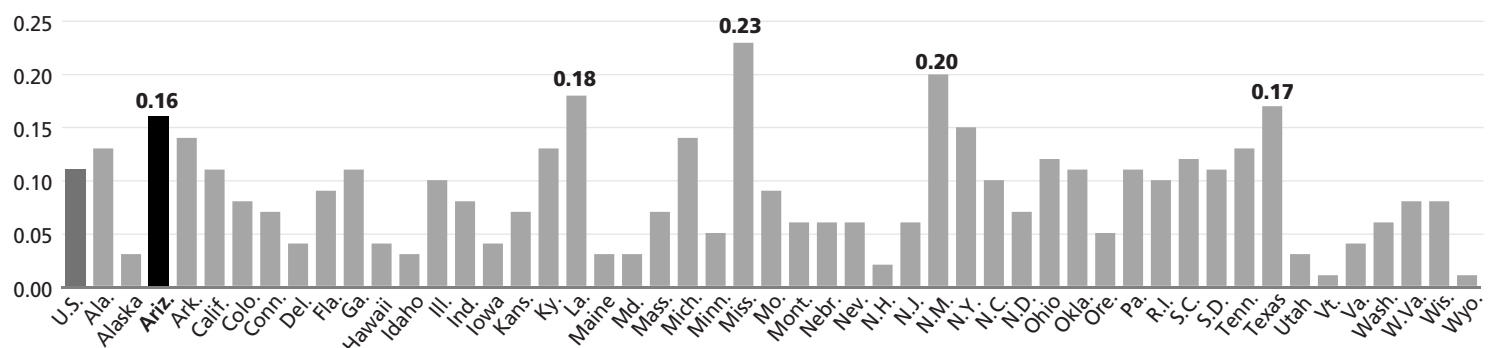
Alzheimer's Association

ARIZONA INDICATORS SNAPSHOT

16% OF ARIZONA CHILDREN LIVE IN AREAS OF CONCENTRATED POVERTY

Arizona has the 5th-highest percentage of children living in areas of concentrated poverty, a living condition that puts them at even greater risk for negative outcomes associated with low socioeconomic status. This indicator defines areas of concentrated poverty as those census tracts with overall poverty rates of 30 percent or more because it is a commonly used threshold that lies between the starting point and leveling-off point for negative neighborhood effects. The 2010 federal poverty threshold is \$22,113 per year for a family of two adults and two children.

Children living in areas of concentrated poverty (state rankings)



Source: Morrison Institute for Public Policy's Arizonalndicators.org

