Even during a pandemic, Williams said that Americans left jobless due to the COVID-19 pandemic should receive zero dollars in additional unemployment benefits but had no problem taking between $1 and $2 million in PPP loans for his own car dealership. He was just being loyal to his party leaders, like when he repeatedly voted to roll back health care coverage for those with pre-existing conditions, voted for tax cuts for corporations at the expense of middle-class families, and voted against relief for small businesses and Texas families during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Williams Said, “Zero Is The Number For Me,” When Asked How Much Additional Money The Federal Government Should Provide In Unemployment Benefits As Part Of A COVID-19 Relief Package. “As Senate Republicans try to advance a coronavirus relief bill with only $200 a week in extra unemployment benefits — down from the expiring $600 — many House Republicans are signaling that they’re opposed to any extra money at all. ‘Zero is the number for me,’ Rep. Roger Williams (R-Texas) told HuffPost on Wednesday. Several of Williams’ House GOP colleagues also questioned whether the federal government should be providing any additional money to state unemployment benefits as more than 25 million people on Saturday will lose the stipend the federal government has been kicking in since March.” [Huffington Post, 7/31/20]

Williams Received A PPP Loan Valued Between $1 And $2 Million Through A Small-Business Assistance Fund Created By Congress. “A North Texas car dealership owned by Rep. Roger Williams received a forgivable loan valued between $1 million and $2 million through a small-business assistance fund created by Congress earlier this year due to the coronavirus outbreak. While The Dallas Morning News first reported on the loan’s existence in May, Williams’ company had declined to detail the size of the financial aid. The additional info was only made public this week as the U.S. Small Business Administration — amid pressure from ethics groups, news organizations and other officials — released the names of every company that received at least a $150,000 loan through the Paycheck Protection Program.” [Dallas Morning News, 7/7/20]

HEADLINE: Car dealership owned by Texas Rep. Roger Williams received loan through coronavirus relief fund for small businesses. [Dallas Morning News, 5/1/20]

Williams’ Car Dealership Received A Loan Through The Paycheck Protection Program. “Rep. Roger Williams has been a vocal champion of the paycheck protection program, hailing the small business assistance fund created by Congress as ‘needed relief’ that will keep mom-and-pop operations ‘moving forward’ amid the coronavirus outbreak. It turns out the Austin Republican knows firsthand the loan program’s benefits. A North Texas car dealership owned by Williams received a loan for an undisclosed amount through the fund, which is designed to allow businesses to keep workers employed through the health crisis, the dealership said Friday in response to questions from The Dallas Morning News. Roger Williams Chrysler Dodge Jeep in Weatherford said in a statement that ‘like millions of small businesses across America, our family-owned business was not immune to the economic damage caused by the government’s shelter-in-place orders and the impacts of COVID-19.’” [Dallas Morning News, 5/1/20]

Williams Voted 10 Times To Fully Repeal The Affordable Care Act:

- **Williams Voted For Republican Conference Report On Budget That Began Process To Repeal Affordable Care Act.** [S Con Res 11, Vote #183, 4/30/15; Bloomberg, 4/29/15]
- **Williams Voted For Republican Study Committee Budget That Repealed The Affordable Care Act.** [H Con Res 27, Vote #138, 3/25/15; The Hill, 3/25/15]
- **Williams Voted For Repealing The Affordable Care Act.** [HR 596, Vote #58, 2/3/15; CQ Floor Votes, 2/3/15]
- **Williams Voted For Republican Budget That Repealed Affordable Care Act.** [H Con Res 96, Vote #177, 4/10/14]
• Williams Voted For Republican Study Committee Budget That Repealed The Affordable Care Act. [H Con Res 96, Vote #175, 4/10/14; Rep. Hall, Press Release, 4/10/14]
• Williams Voted For Republican Budget That Repealed Affordable Care Act. [H Con Res 25, Vote #88, 3/21/13]
• Williams Voted For Repealing The Affordable Care Act. [HR 45, Vote #154, 5/16/13; CQ Floor Votes, 5/16/13]
• Williams Voted For Republican Study Committee Budget That Repealed The Affordable Care Act. [H Con Res 25, Vote #86, 3/20/13; Rep. Hanabusa, Press Release, 3/20/13]

Williams Voted Against Passage Of The Protecting Americans With Preexisting Conditions Act, Prohibiting Federal Departments From Exempting State Health Care Plans From Federal Requirements Under The ACA. In May 2019, Williams voted against: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit the Health and Human Services and Treasury departments from taking any action to implement or enforce their October 2018 guidance regarding criteria for evaluating Section 1332 state health care plan waivers under the 2010 health care overhaul, and would prohibit the departments from effectively reissuing the guidance. Section 1332 waivers exempt state health care plans from certain federal requirements under the Affordable Care Act, including requirements related to qualified health plans, tax credits, and individual and employer mandates. To be eligible for such waivers, proposed state plans are required to provide care to a ‘comparable number’ of residents that is ‘as comprehensive’ and ‘as affordable’ as would otherwise be provided under the ACA. The October 2018 guidance modifies guidelines for considering waiver applications, emphasizing that a proposed state health care plan should be evaluated based on the number of residents that would have ‘access’ to comparable coverage under the plan, as opposed to the number of residents that purchase such coverage.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 230-183. [HR 986, Vote #196, 5/9/19; CQ, 5/9/19]

The Bill Would Nullify Trump Administration Guidance Allowing States To Make Major Changes To Their Affordable Care Act Markets. “The bill would nullify a Trump administration guidance that would allow states to ask for waivers to make major changes to their Obamacare markets. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services laid out in November four examples of what states could request -- opening the door for people to use subsidies to buy coverage outside the Obamacare exchanges. This would include short-term health insurance plans that can reject people with pre-existing conditions or charge them higher premiums. The Trump administration last year made these policies more attractive by extending their terms to just under a year, instead of three months.” [CNN, 5/9/19]

Williams Voted Against An Amendment To Prohibit The Use Of Appropriated Funds To Implement The August 2018 Rule On Short-Term Limited-Duration Insurance Plans. In June 2019, Williams voted against: “Castor, D-Fla., amendment that would prohibit the use of funds made available under the bill for the implementation, administration or enforcement of an August 2018 rule issued by the Departments of the Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services related to short-term limited-duration insurance plans.” The amendment was adopted 236 to 188. [HR 2740, Vote #283, 6/13/19; CQ, 6/13/19]

The Trump Administration Rule Allowed Short Term Health Plans To Be Sold For Up To 3 Years; The Obama Administration Had Limited To 90 Days. “Insurers will again be able to sell short-term health insurance good for up to 12 months under final rules released Wednesday by the Trump administration. This action overturns an Obama administration directive that limited such plans to 90 days. It also adds a new twist: If they wish, insurers can make the short-term plans renewable for up to three years. […] But the plans could also raise premiums for those who remain in the Affordable Care Act marketplace — and the short-term coverage is far more limited.” [Kaiser Health News, 8/1/18]

Short Term Plans Could Discriminate Based On Pre-existing Conditions, And Exclude Essential Health Benefits. “Short-term plans are less expensive because, unlike their ACA counterparts, which cannot bar people with preexisting health conditions, insurers selling these policies can be choosy — rejecting people with illnesses or limiting their coverage. Short-term plans can also set annual and lifetime caps on benefits, and cover few prescription drugs. Most exclude benefits for maternity care, preventive care, mental health services or substance abuse treatment.” [Kaiser Health News, 8/1/18]
Williams Voted For Final Passage Of The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act By Concurring With A Senate Amendment. In December 2017, Williams voted for: “Brady, R-Texas, motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the tax overhaul that would revise the federal income tax system by: lowering the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent; lowering individual tax rates through 2025; limiting state and local deductions to $10,000 through 2025; decreasing the limit on deductible mortgage debt through 2025; and creating a new system of taxing U.S. corporations with foreign subsidiaries. Specifically, it would repeal personal exemptions and would roughly double the standard deduction through 2025. It would raise the child tax credit to $2,000 through 2025, would repeal the alternative minimum tax for corporations and provide for broader exemptions to the tax for individuals through 2025. It would double individual exemptions to the estate tax and gift tax through 2025, and would establish a new top tax rate for "pass-through" business income through 2025. It would effectively eliminate the penalty for not purchasing health insurance under the 2010 health care overhaul law in 2019. It would also open portions of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling.” The motion was passed 224-201. [HR 1, Vote #699, 12/20/17; CQ Floor Votes, 12/20/17]

Politifact: GOP Tax Bill Would Raise Taxes For The Middle Class After Individual Tax Cut Provisions Expired In 2025. “Gillibrand said the Republican ‘tax [plan] raises middle-class taxes.’ That’s not true during the first years of the new tax provisions. If not for the sunset for the tax changes for individuals, we likely would have rated Gillibrand’s statement False or perhaps Mostly False. Middle-income taxpayers will either benefit or see no change in their tax liability through 2025. But her claim could hold up after the bill’s individual provisions expire that year. There’s no guarantee a future Congress will extend those parts of the bill.” [Politifact, 12/22/17]

Tax Policy Center: In 2018, 5 Percent Of Taxpayers Would Pay More In Taxes Under The GOP Tax Bill, But Would Increase To 53 Percent Of Taxpayers In 2027. “Some taxpayers would pay more in taxes under the proposal in 2018 and 2025 than under current law: about 5 percent of taxpayers in 2018 and 9 percent in 2025. In 2027, however, taxes would increase for 53 percent of taxpayers compared with current law.” [Tax Policy Center, 12/18/17]

Williams Voted Against The HEROES Act – Which Would Provide COVID-19 Relief By Extending The Paycheck Protection Program For Small Business Loans, Removing Loan Forgiveness Requirements Related To Minimum Amounts Used For Payroll Cost And Establishing Set-Asides For Businesses With 10 Or Fewer Employees. In May 2020, Williams voted against: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would provide roughly $3 trillion in funding to further address the health and economic effects of COVID-19, including almost $1 trillion for direct aid to state and local governments; $200 billion for a fund to provide hazard pay for essential workers; $75 billion for a national testing program; and funding for state and federal response related to health care, education, housing, and food supply. It would extend federal funding of expanded unemployment compensation benefits through January 2021 and provide an additional round of tax rebates of $1,200 for individuals with incomes of $75,000 or less. The bill would provide $540 billion for states, territories, and tribal governments and $375 billion for local governments to address costs and economic impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. It would also provide $100.2 billion for the Education Department; over $120 billion for federal programs and $75 billion to states to provide housing and homeownership assistance; and over $14 billion for nutrition programs. It would also provide $16.5 billion for the Agriculture Department to reimburse agricultural producers for losses due to COVID-19, in addition to other assistance for farmers and ranchers. It would provide $200 billion to establish a fund providing grants for employers to provide hazard pay to essential employees at $13 per hour above regular wages during the COVID-19 crisis. It would provide $75 billion to the Health and Human Services Department for a national testing and contact tracing initiative and $100 billion for HHS to reimburse health care providers for expenses and lost revenue related to COVID-19. It would increase federal contributions to state Medicaid programs and eliminate cost sharing for coronavirus treatments under Medicare and Medicaid. It would create a special enrollment period during the public health emergency for Affordable Care Act marketplace health plans and Medicare Parts A and B, and it would establish "risk corridor" programs to make federal payments to issuers of most private health insurance plans and Medicare Advantage plans. It would provide an additional tax rebate of $1200 to individuals or $2400 to those filing a joint return, increased by $1200 for each of up to three dependents. It would extend through January 2021 federal unemployment compensation benefits of up to $600 per
week under previous coronavirus response legislation. It would extend through 2021 requirements for employers to provide additional sick and family leave, and expand the requirements to apply to all private employers. It would extend the Paycheck Protection Program for small business loans through 2020; remove loan forgiveness requirements related to minimum amounts used for payroll costs; and establish set-asides for businesses with 10 or fewer employees, nonprofit organizations, and community financial institutions. It would provide $45 billion for Treasury Department payment of private student loans up to $10,000 for economically distressed borrowers, and it would provide up to $10,000 of loan forgiveness for all federal student loans. It would expand a March 2020 provision to prohibit all evictions and foreclosures for one year and establish a temporary moratorium on consumer debt collection from consumers and debt collection from small businesses and nonprofits. It would provide $3.6 billion for payments to states for coronavirus response related to the 2020 elections and require states to offer same-day voter registration and an early voting period of at least 15 consecutive days. It would also provide $25 billion to the U.S. Postal Service and $410 million to the Census Bureau. Among other provisions, it would eliminate the existing $10,000 cap on federal tax deductions for state and local taxes for tax years 2020 and 2021.” The bill passed by a vote of 208-199. [HR 6800, Vote #109, 5/15/20; CQ, 5/15/20]

The HEROES Act Would Extend Federal Funding For Unemployment Benefits Through January 2021 And Would Provide Additional Stimulus Checks For Families With Incomes Under $75,000. “It would extend federal funding of expanded unemployment compensation benefits through January 2021 and provide an additional round of tax rebates of $1,200 for individuals with incomes of $75,000 or less.” [CQ, 5/15/20]