



Video Transcript

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**Senator Marco Rubio,
Republican**

The reason why I love free enterprise is because it's the only economic model in the history of the world, where you can make poor people richer without making rich people poorer. In essence, it allows everyone to move ahead.

In a free enterprise economy, if there is poverty, it is because there has been an impediment to allowing free enterprise to work in people's lives. We face a lot of those impediments in the 21st century. That's what the block granting the Opportunity Fund that you talked about and the Flex Fund that I've talked about are designed to eliminate.

For example, if you are a child born into a broken family, in an unstable home, in a dangerous neighborhood and substandard housing, in a school that's failing in your community, where the people on the street are drug dealers, who are not good role models, you've got six strikes against you. Unless something dramatic happens to shake up that dynamic, statistics say, you are going to struggle to get ahead.

So we need to be focusing our assistance on breaking that model. And again, I don't think you're ever going to get that from the federal government. There is no way the federal government can design innovative and creative programs on a one-size-fits-all approach that fits the entire country.

I think it behooves us to say we care about poverty. And we care so much that we are going to make the funds available to those out there who know how to make a difference at the state and local level.