***Political inequality***

*A long tradition of Marxian and other left-wing critiques of pluralism, for*

*instance, has explored the extent to which wealth confers political privilege.16 Welfare*

*state scholars have studied how economic privilege can increase political influence,*

*a view that sits comfortably with the power-resources tradition of welfare state*

*research.17 Most important, perhaps, has been work on disfunctions of democracy in*

*the United States. Pioneering studies by Martin Gilens, Larry Bartels, and others find*

*evidence that the attitudes of the wealthiest citizens are more reflected in subsequent*

*policy shifts than the attitudes of median or poorer citizens.18 Here we see that the rich*

*(e.g., the ninetieth percentile of the income distribution) get their way more than the*

*poor (e.g., the tenth percentile) or middle-class citizens (e.g., the fiftieth percentile) in*

*many policy areas, including social policy. The sources of such inequality can be*

*structural or instrumental.19 They include money in electoral politics;20 the breakdown*

*of organized public interests, particularly unions;21 and underrepresentation of lowerclass*

*interests in political office and elite positions.22 Other scholars have found*

*income-based inequalities in representation in cross-national contexts, although the*

*evidence is still scarce.23 Recent work has explored how attitudes across the income*

*spectrum relate to subsequent changes in welfare state spending, revealing in a crosssection*

*of countries modest skews in favor of the wealthiest citizens.24*

Schakel Real but Welfare Reform

*Understanding unequal representation Schakel*

Look for other research to make a