

The Healthcare Debate

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As the healthcare debate warms back up again, I would like to present a strategy to oppose the recently passed healthcare bill. It is absolutely critical that we win the healthcare debate and overturn the new healthcare legislation or we will be facing socialized medicine. Make no mistake about it, the wheels are turning, and if our strategy fails, this country will move to a single payer health system.

Americans do not need more health 'insurance'; they need quality and affordable health 'care'. The rising costs of health care have not been caused by the free market, but rather the costs have increased because consumers have been insulated from their health care expenditures and insurance premiums. The government has added to the rise in costs as it has encouraged third party payment systems through tax incentives and regulations and also has heavily subsidized health insurance to the poor and elderly. If we truly want innovative and affordable health care we must empower individual consumers to make their own decisions with their own money with regards to their health care. Competition is what controls quality and cost in a free market, but that is not what the new healthcare legislation does as it pushes us further toward a single payer system, which has no competition and by definition is a monopoly.

Let's start with the legislation itself. The new healthcare legislation is extremely damaging to our current health care system, and further pushes the system in the wrong direction away from free market competition. Despite all the rhetoric that this bill was about choice and competition, the healthcare bill is limiting competition through vast government regulations. The goal of the plan is quite obvious.

The government regulations in this plan are molding all health insurance policies into the same plan, a plan that covers nearly all health care procedures. Eventually, it won't matter which insurance company in the exchanges is chosen, all the insurance companies will be offering is the same policy determined by the government regulations. The legislation goes on to mandate that all Americans get insurance, yet the only insurance policies available will be the highly regulated policies that the government has created. The plan pushes all Americans onto essentially the same health insurance plan, and most importantly, a comprehensive insurance plan that covers most all health care procedures. Americans need to realize how important it is to the advancement of socialized medicine that all their health care procedures be paid for through regulated insurance policies in lieu of out of pocket payments; this is the final dagger to competition. Any services or products purchased out of pocket and outside of the regulated insurance policies would foster competition for consumers. The elimination of competition is the focal point of the healthcare bill. I cannot state clearly enough, and Americans must realize regulation and competition are on opposite ends of the spectrum, it is one or the other!

If the healthcare legislation is unchanged and continues as it was enacted, the healthcare industry is going to move in the direction as I've described above. What will this do to the cost of health insurance? Health insurers will essentially be offering one comprehensive health insurance policy that covers all health care expenditures with limits

on deductibles and co-pays. Of course, this will cause the cost of health insurance and care to skyrocket; it will 'bend the cost curve upward'. Make no mistake; the framers of this legislation fully understand that the cost of health insurance will rise as a result of the health care bill; in fact, that is the point. To afford the rising health insurance costs Americans will be subsidized by the federal government to purchase these policies. Is it not obvious where this leads? If all Americans are insured with essentially the same plan, and the majority of American's are purchasing their health care insurance through government subsidies, and the cost of health care continues to explode, what is America left to do?

Once this legislation has regulated, mandated, and subsidized all Americans onto the same health care insurance policy and driven out all health care competition, the only way left to contain health care costs will be price controls. Thus the final blow to private health care insurance will be struck. We've already seen insurers be warned (threatened) by the Health and Human Services department about increasing insurance premiums. However, in reality there is only one entity that attempts to sell products and services at less than their costs, and that is government. Once the price controls have eliminated private health care insurance, we will be on a short bridge to a single payer health system and socialized medicine.

The healthcare legislation also begins the formation of the vast bureaucratic army that socialized medicine requires. This has already begun. Medicare, Medicaid, and current government regulations have already moved us in the direction of socialized medicine, and this legislation is the final leg of that journey. As Joe Biden stated so eloquently, "This is a big fucking deal".

The health care debate is crucial, it affects all Americans' lives, and it is a milestone on whether this country is going to continue to pursue socialism, or take a step back toward individual freedom. Fortunately, the transformation has not yet been completed, but the strategy to stop socialized medicine must be prudent and complete. And it must start immediately.

Although the House of Representatives is now in a position to vote for complete repeal, the Senate and of course, the President will make legislative repeal of the entire bill impossible. Therefore the temptation will be for compromise to begin to 'fix' the bill instead of repeal the bill. There is a lot in this health care legislation that is going to be extremely unpopular as it begins to be enacted; one example of this will be the 1099 requirements on business. This is a crippling regulation on small business, and will be met with extreme displeasure from the business community. Therefore, repeal of this one regulation will be simple and there will be many other regulations just as unpopular that will be easy to compromise repeal with the proponents of the health care legislation.

These small repeals, although bipartisan and popular, will not stop the focal point of the legislation, and they will only work to lessen the public outcry against the entire health care bill. It might be short-term political gain for opponents of the health care bill, but it will make total repeal that much more difficult. As Abraham Lincoln stated, "The best way to get a bad law repealed is to enforce it strictly." More than anything else, we need to win the public's opinion on this legislation. Therefore, we need to let this legislation collapse on its own weight. As Nancy Pelosi recommended, let's let the public find out what is actually in this destructive monstrosity of a bill.

The goal needs to be complete repeal in 2013, with momentum and a public opinion embracing actual free market solutions to our health care industry. We need to not only repeal the healthcare bill, but we need to deregulate the entire healthcare industry and reduce and reform Medicare and Medicaid. The election in 2012 is a great opportunity to kill socialized medicine in its tracks. The Republicans in congress need to (1) vote in lockstep for a repeal of the health care bill, make it known to the public that the Republicans are against the health care legislation (2) make 2012 a referendum on the healthcare legislation and a stark choice to the American people between socialized medicine and the free market (3) allow the health legislation to collapse on its own weight and regulations (4) do not allow the funding for the creation of the bureaucratic army that this bill enacts (5) offer clear market based solutions that create competition. America needs to put the consumer in charge, not the regulator.

In 2012 the Democrats have a President and a vast number of Democratic Senators up for re-election. Opponents of the health care legislation must make the President and those Senators accountable for their stance on the health care bill; make them defend it. The Republicans must present a distinct choice; the election of 2012 needs to be a very clear choice between regulation and competition, between one size fits all or personal choice, between socialism and individual freedom. Ronald Reagan understood this debate clearly and quoted Norman Thomas, a member of the American Socialist party, "the American people will never vote for Socialism, but under the name of Liberalism the American people will adopt every fragment of the Socialist program." The President and many Democrats in congress understand this as well.

"I've said this before, if I were designing a system from scratch then I'd probably set up a single payer system. For those of you who are not familiar with the terminology single payer basically means that you've got one government funded program, it doesn't have to be all government run, but its government funded. Medicare would be an example of a single payer system if everybody was in Medicare. But the problem is we are not starting from scratch, we've got a system in which most people have become accustomed to getting their health insurance through their employer. And for us to immediately transition from that, and given that a lot of people work for insurance companies, a lot of people work for HMO's, you've got a whole system of institutions that have been set up making that transition in a rapid way would be very difficult. And people don't have time to wait, they need relief now. So my attitude is let's build off the system that we've got, let's make it more efficient, we may be over time as we make the system more efficient and everybody's covered, decide that there are other ways for us to provide care more effectively."

Barack Obama

Found on Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7wTDK-LwqE>