



MISSING TONIGHT: REAL LEADERSHIP ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

Republican Proposals Decrease Costs, Increase Access Without Government Takeover

GOP PROPOSALS FOR REFORM “BLESSIEDLY FREE OF LOUD POLITICAL RHETORIC”

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (KY) Explains GOP’s Common Sense Solutions. “Republicans and Democrats agree that health care is in serious need of reform... Republicans have put forward common sense solutions like reforming our medical liability laws to discourage junk lawsuits that make health care more expensive for everyone; strengthening wellness and prevention programs that encourage people to make healthy choices, such as quitting smoking and fighting obesity; and addressing the needs of small business without imposing new taxes that kill jobs. Unfortunately, some in Washington are insistent on a different set of proposals that could make our current problems even worse - driving costs higher than they already are and forcing even those who are happy with their current coverage into a government-run system that could lead to the same denial, delay, and rationing of care that we've seen in other countries.” (Sen. Mitch McConnell, Republican Radio Address, 6/20/09)

House Republican Whip Eric Cantor (VA): GOP Plans Bring Down Cost By Offering Choice. Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA): “When you give employers the flexibility as well as the employees and provide some incentive for folks to exercise, if you do that, you are rewarded with lower premium costs at some of these plans. We ought to allow for more competition so that people can have a choice. You can have a choice of what kind of health care coverage you want. Maybe you're young and healthy and don't want to purchase coverage for hair transplants or other elective procedures and maybe you just want a basic plan. We ought to allow for that.” (Rep. Eric Cantor, ABC's “Good Morning America,” 6/22/09)

House GOP Health Care Solutions Group, Led By Congressman Roy Blunt (R-MO), Proposed Principles To Increase Access, Reduce Costs. “Republicans are looking at solutions to: (1) Make quality health care coverage affordable and accessible for every American, regardless of pre-existing health conditions; (2) Protect Americans from being forced into a new government-run health care plan that would: (a) eliminate the health coverage that more than 100 million Americans currently receive through their job, (b) limit your choice of doctors and medical treatment options, and (c) result in the federal government taking control of your health care; (3) Let Americans who like their health care coverage keep it, and give all Americans the freedom to choose the health plan that best meets their needs; (4) Ensure that medical decisions are made by patients and their doctors, not government bureaucrats; (5) Improve Americans' lives through effective prevention, wellness, and disease management programs, while developing new treatments and cures for life-threatening diseases.” (Rep. Roy Blunt, “Health Care Solutions Group,” Press Release, 6/17/09)

- **Houston Chronicle Editorial: “Give The Republican Proposal For Health Care Reform A Respectful Hearing.”** “The Republican plan emphasizes preserving health care choices for individuals while bringing down costs, which have soared since 1993, the last time reform was attempted. It takes specific issue with the Obama administration proposal to offer a so-called public option and is adamant about keeping medical decisions in the hands of doctors rather than bureaucrats. It also warns against the dangers of fraud and abuse in programs such as Medicare. The plan is earnest and blessedly free of loud political rhetoric. GOP leaders appear to have received the message that most Americans really do want a workable solution to this problem, as does most of the nation's business community, which labors under competitive disadvantages internationally on its account.” (Editorial, “Minority View: Give The Republican Proposal For

Proposal From Sens. Coburn (R-OK) & Burr (R-NC), Congressmen Ryan (R-WI) & Nunes (R-CA) Was First Comprehensive Bill Formally Introduced This Year.

“The Patients’ Choice Act of 2009’ transforms health care in America by strengthening the relationship between the patient and the doctor; using choice and competition rather than rationing and restrictions to contain costs; and ensuring universal, affordable health care for all Americans. ‘The Patients’ Choice Act’ promotes innovative, State-based solutions, along with fundamental reforms in the tax code, to give every American, regardless of employment status, age, or health condition, the ability and the resources to purchase health insurance. The comprehensive legislation includes concrete prevention and transparency initiatives, long overdue reforms to Medicare and Medicaid, investments in wellness programs and health IT, and more.” (Rep. Paul Ryan, “Senators Coburn, Burr, And Representatives Ryan, Nunes Offer A Better Path Forward On Health Care Reform,” Press Release, 5/20/09)

- **Ryan: “Government Takeover Of” Vs. “Status Quo On” Health Care Is False Choice.** “The President reiterated a false choice that is damaging the open, honest health care debate that we deserve. The President frames the debate as: The government must take over the management of health care OR continue with the failed status-quo of today. He continues to challenge his critics by asking, ‘What is the alternative?’ He knows that there are alternatives – better alternatives where the patient, not the government, is at the center of health care in America. He knows that we have introduced the Patients’ Choice Act of 2009. He knows this, and is simply hoping that the American people don’t know it. It should be noted that Democrats haven’t yet introduced a bill – we have. The Patients’ Choice Act is a real proposal with actual legislative text, demonstrating that we can have universal health insurance in this country without the government taking it over.” (Rep. Paul Ryan, Op Ed, “The False Choice Versus The Patients’ Choice,” *The Journal Times*, 6/11/19)

Congressional Republicans Have Long Championed Innovative Ways To Reform Our Health Care System. “In essence, the Health Care Choice Act of 2005 -- introduced by Rep. John Shadegg (R-Ariz.) in the House and Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S. Car.) in the Senate -- would let insurers licensed in one state sell an individual health policy approved and sold in that primary state to people in any state. Today, individuals can purchase only those health plans approved in their state from insurers licensed in that state.” (Margaret Price, “Economist champions bill to allow health insurance sold across state lines,” *[New York] Daily News*, 11/17/05)