

## **The Obamacare Healthcare Fiasco or *How to turn a silk purse into a sow's ear***

I admit it. I haven't read the whole Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (aka 'Obamacare'). It's not because the law isn't important. There are just too many great books gathering dust on my shelf that would accuse me of cheating on them if I dove into a Leaning Tower of Pisa-like stack of pages written by a flock of bureaucrats about a law that nearly nobody completely understands. (If you search the Internet you will see that the number of pages attributable to the Act are in the tens of thousands because they include the numerous regulations that have been written to implement the Act, making the tower an imposing structure.)

Before you invest any more time in this Op Ed, let me say that you will be able to get through it without bursting a blood vessel. Here are my top two points: 1. our law-makers have taken complete leave of their senses and ignored basic human nature in constructing and passing this legislation and 2. they have seriously misjudged the anger of the people, now that the impact of the law is being felt in their personal lives.

On point number one, Americans' pre-Obama human nature dictated that, *if I have something that you want, you must first persuade me that your right to take it from me supersedes my right to keep it.* The modern-day Obama-era version of that is evidenced in the passage of Obamacare and it is that, *property rights (insurance plans and the freedom of selecting coverage that fits an individual or family), money (low or reasonable premiums), profits (earned by insurers or healthcare providers) which are deemed by Government to be in the wrong hands can be seized, re-valued, re-assigned or re-located by Government as it sees fit.*

Every monarch, dictator or elected body makes an occasional stupid, unfair or unworkable law, and Obamacare is one of those because instead of working together to reform our healthcare system with enforceable, realistic regulations that ended up insuring the uninsured, the Democrats decided to 'scrap the vehicle' (the entire health insurance system) instead of pinpointing the source of the 'knocking noise' (the 30 million or so underinsured or uninsured) and fixing THAT!

Knowing what we know now about the law and the unintended or intended consequences of it, I half-hoped that the Obamacare Congressional hearings today, which featured the leading lady of this bureaucratic passion play, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, would somehow be the venue for an announcement of a waiver of the individual mandate for purchasing health insurance. I fantasized that Secretary Sebelius would reach into her purse for a crumpled nurse's cap and unfold it, place it on her coiffed gray hair and then look straight into the camera and say, "My fellow Americans, we have made a mistake. We misjudged the severity of the healthcare crisis in America. Instead of insuring the few, we decided to de-insure everybody and re-build a new system that adversely impacted one-sixth of our economy and brought everyone down to the same level of healthcare, thinking that you wouldn't mind paying three or four times more for coverage as long as your neighbor paid three or four times less."

Then she replaced the nurse's cap with an accountant's visor and said, "We also misread the economic needs of our young citizens. We thought that because they voted for the President, and even though they might be unemployed, that they would be happy to pony up thousands of dollars a year for something they had little immediate need for, despite the fact that we mandated every plan contain 'reproductive rights' items like free contraception and the morning-after pill. We thought, too, that by creating a snappy website that they'd fire up their ipads and sign up in droves, just for the sheer fun of it. We were wrong."

Then Sebelius removes the visor and wraps herself in a shawl made of an American flag and makes an impassioned plea to the entire Republican side of the Congressional Committee. "Friends, fellow Federal workers, comrades in arms, join with the President and me. Forget our past mistakes. Let's bury the

hatchet. It's always the first cut that hurts the most. This is not a double-edged sword if we do not want it to be. Let's beat them instead into plowshares and share a future that guarantees its citizens true quality healthcare. Today, I am proud to announce that my Department has negotiated a nationwide contract with the Canadian Government to provide all U.S. citizens with healthcare. Tomorrow, my department will be turning over the ownership and re-building of the website to Canadian Prime Minister Harper's government and I will be stepping down from my post as Cabinet Secretary to become the CEO of CGI Canada. Good luck and bon chance."

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