

## THE ESSENCE OF MY COMMENTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT HEALTH CARE REFORM

Stephen L. Bakke – September 12, 2009

In conclusion, listed below is the essence of all my arguments and commentary:

- The debate has been an enormous inspiration to me in terms of understanding the concept of “Freedom of Speech.”
- I support comprehensive (i.e. significant, not a public option) health care reform.
- We could have saved a lot of “wear and tear on the chicken” if all of us wouldn’t have tried to “lay such a big egg.” Determine what is agreed on and just fight about the other issues. It’s been all or nothing on both sides.
- None of us should be audacious, outrageous, or absurd in our objections or proposals. We don’t need exaggerated, hysterical “conservative” arguments which can be easily identified as “misinformation.” It just gets in the way.
- There are many logical reasons seniors and others should be concerned. Unfortunately, many of these have been distorted or exaggerated and thereby the Obamacare supporters have fuel for repudiating even the valid arguments.
- True reform can be achieved only if we “separate the bad from the good” in our system. We focus too much on the emotional issues and hysterical arguments. Our system has dignified itself in many ways, has many significant advantages, and some of the cost increases have come from extraordinary increases in quality and effectiveness. These positives must be identified and preserved.
- The best way to save costs is to exploit the free market system – not institute government control. Even the Congressional Budget Office projects a huge increase in costs and deficits if Obamacare is passed as introduced.
- “Choice, competition, reducing costs – those are the things that I want to see accomplished in the health reform bill” – that from Obama. I agree, but his public option and other reforms actually prevent choice and competition. Obamacare offers standardized coverage at a uniform price – whether from the public option or private insurers. That’s not cost reducing choice or competition.
- Permitting competition between companies in other states will promote real competition. Some say: “the free market hasn’t worked so far, why will it work now?” What free market? Government regulation and control now prevent competition because companies are prohibited from selling across state borders.
- I believe a “robust public option” would lead to rationing.
- The President can’t make a valid medical or economic argument for Obamacare because that was never the objective. I believe it’s all about incremental movement to a universal, single payer, government run system.
- The problem with the draft legislation isn’t what it specifically states. Rather, it’s in its vagueness and what the implications of that legislation may lead to.
- The role of government should be to facilitate reform through legislative, tax and regulatory policies, not as a national health care administrator. **LEGISLATE, FACILITATE, AND REGULATE – BUT DON’T STIPULATE!**

That’s all folks!