

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

February 16, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID AXELROD
 SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MIKE KELLEHER
 SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR
 OF PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

CC: LISA BROWN
 ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND STAFF SECRETARY

SUBJECT: Common Health Care Reform Questions

Since April 2009, the Office of Presidential Correspondence has responded to over 160,000 emails regarding health care from the general public. We performed targeted searches within our email intake system to identify frequently asked health care questions. Below are common questions, followed by an [index](#) of examples of each question from emails we have received.

GENERAL

1. Will Health Care Reform create “rationing” within our health care system? ([Examples 1,2,3](#))
2. Will Health Care Reform decrease the overall quality of health care in America? ([Example 4](#))
3. Why doesn’t Health Care Reform examine tort reform as an option to reduce cost within the health system? ([Examples 5,6](#))
4. I would like to know why Americans are not entitled to the same health insurance as Members of Congress. Don’t the taxpayers fund their health care and pensions? ([Example 7](#))
5. If you are pushing this health care program, Mr. President, I want you, your family, and every member of the House and Senate on the same program. If it is not good enough for all of you, why is it good enough for me? ([Example 8](#))

COSTS

1. How are you going to help people manage increased premiums? ([Examples 9,10](#))
2. How are you going to discourage and regulate insurance companies from raising premiums? ([Example 11](#))

3. How would government control costs yet still ensure fair reimbursement to hospitals and clinics? ([Examples 12,13,14](#))

ECONOMY

1. Can the economy withstand a health care overhaul? ([Examples 15,16](#))
2. Will Health Care Reform raise our taxes? Is it just a tax on wealthy Americans? ([Examples 17,18,19,20](#))

IMMIGRATION

1. Will Health Care Reform give benefits to illegal immigrants or cover undocumented workers? ([Example 16](#))

PASSING HEALTH CARE REFORM

1. I need health care now. If enacted, how long will it take for Health Care Reform to take affect? ([Examples 21,22,23](#))
2. Why isn't the Administration more active in pushing Health Care Reform? I want to see the President take the lead on this issue and to stop letting the Republican minority, as well as other members of his own Party, obstruct the process. ([Example 24](#))
3. Why is the Administration making so many core compromises on Health Care Reform on key issues (i.e. Public Option, Medicare buy-in)? Don't they know that there are a lot of people who would like to see these policies enacted? ([Example 25](#))

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

1. Why are big PHRMA and other powerful lobbies allowed to privately meet with White House officials about Health Care Reform? What kind of impact will these groups have on the final bill? ([Examples 26,27](#))
2. When are we going to tackle the horrible costs of drugs in this country? ([Example 14](#))

SENIORS

1. Is Health Care Reform going to negatively affect Medicare and seniors? ([Examples 1,13](#))
2. Is long-term health care for seniors included in the currently proposed bills? If not, are there plans to include it? If so, what is the cost to seniors? ([Example 28](#))

SMALL BUSINESS

1. I am a small business owner. Will Health Care Reform create affordable options for me to provide health care to my employees, or will it hinder my business? ([Examples 29,30](#))
2. Will Health Care Reform force citizens and small business owners to pay a fine if they opt out of coverage? ([Example 31](#))

TRANSPARENCY

1. I want to see the final copy of the bill that our Congress is voting on. Please make the bill available online. ([Examples 28,32,33](#))
2. Why aren't the debates within Congress regarding Health Care Reform (conference, committee hearings) on C-Span? Where is the transparency in the process? ([Example 19](#))

INDEX

GENERAL

Example 1

General Q1 (Rationing)

Seniors Q1 (Medicare)

12/10/2009 12:15:42 PM

You're going to cut Medicare by 500 billion and then add people from age 55 to 64 to the program. How can that happen without extreme rationing? A warning to you! As a MN Senior I have a long memory. You are no friend of MN Senior's if you continue on the healthcare path you are now on. Scrap it althgether and start over.

Example 2

General Q1 (Rationing)

12/29/2009 12:09:59 AM

I don't argue that there needs to be health reform in this country, but I can't find anyone that can answer this question.

If we are going to add 30 million people into the health care system in this nation, why isn't there a plan to add more doctors to it?

As I see it, health care rationing will result from a lack of medical professionals. You can't just add 30 million people without increasing the amount of health care professionals and expect there not to be a problem getting basic medical services. Please help.

Thanks,

Example 3

General Q1 (Rationing)

01/15/2010 2:04:29 PM

I VOTed for you and trust you-BUT.We all know medical care is too expensive. I only see rationing in my future. It is happening NOW;Medicare refused coverage on an x-ray that world famous physician ordered. Medicare denied me coverage. Why. I am afriad with savings you wish to achieve this means wholesale rationing. Am I wrong? I am afraid.

Example 4

General Q2 (Quality)

12/22/2009 6:20:07 AM

I'm curious as to what the purpose is for implementing a national health care system when in other nations with a nationalized health care system are telling us to not head in the same direction they've gone. Is the purpose just to expand government? That is the only reason I could think of. Why do we think we could make ours any better than theirs especially with our current economy?

Example 5
General Q3 (Tort)
01/27/2010 11:17:45 PM

I enjoyed your State of the Union speech. Get some Republicans involved in the health care reform. I hear that one key feature they want is tort reform to cut the cost of malpractice lawsuits. As a Democrat and businessman, I support this. Why not add this and get some Republicans on board?

Best regards,

Example 6
General Q3 (Tort)
02/3/2010 10:20:23 AM

True tort reform is still off the radar. Where do you stand? For me this is a message issue not something buried deep in some department to study.

Example 7
General Q4 (Same Plan)
02/14/2010 11:10:15 PM

I would like to know why Americans are not entitled to the same health insurance as congress the taxpayers fund their health care & pensions cut their benefits & perhaps this country can afford health care for all. we must have a one payer system wealth & position will not determine your health care. I would like an answer back please

Example 8
General Q5 (Same Plan)
02/15/2010 9:35:16 PM

I am not in favor of social medicine which is where I think we are headed. If this health care program that you are pushing Mr. President I want you, your family and every member of the House and Senate on the same program. If it is not good enough for all of you why is it good enough for me?

COSTS

Example 9

Costs Q1 (Premiums)

10/25/2009 12:02:03 PM

There has been recent speculation that current proposals will result in premium increases through existing employer plans and for individuals who can afford private insurance. Wouldn't you consider health reform a failure if costs go up for those who currently can afford private health insurance or receive it through employment?

Example 10

Costs Q1 (Premiums)

12/28/2009 8:01:39 PM

It is difficult to understand how the proposed health care reforms will not drastically increase our Medical Insurance Premiums. Can you please explain how this will be done?

Example 11
Costs Q2 (Regulation)
02/12/2010 3:06:21 PM

Mr. President,

I have sent this to the Greenlining Institute, Julia Brownley's office, Fran Pauley's office, David Jones's office and Steve Poizner's office.

Regards,

Robert Goldstein

I am one of millions of members of Anthem BC here in California who have had their premiums increased by approximately (35%).

I believe that the following proposition would both roll back rates to January 1, 2010 plus freeze rate increases until the insurance companies and the state came together to sort out a rate approval process just like all of the other insurance companies, property and casualty, auto, etc. are required to do. This would end file and use rates and force the medical insurance companies to accept regulation.

SUGGESTED PROPOSITION LANGUAGE

Every insurer issuing, amending, or renewing any group or individual insurance policy which covers hospital, medical, or surgical expenses shall be covered by this section. No insurer shall, without the approval of the California State Insurance Commission increase premiums or charges for any group or individual contract issued in the State of California.

All premiums or charges for every contract either group or individual currently in effect will be rolled back to the rates that were in effect for that group or individual contract as of January 1, 2010.

No insurer shall, with regard to a group contract or individual contract currently in force change any applicable co-payments or coinsurances or deductibles or reduce or eliminate any benefits or restrict eligibility for the length of the existing contract.

Every insurer issuing a new group or individual insurance policy may only charge a premium that has been approved by the California State Insurance Commission office.

----- Original Message -----

To: Robert Goldstein

Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 3:24 PM

Subject: RE: PDF proposition signatures

Mr. Goldstein-

Circulating petitions via the internet is not addressed in the California Elections Code.

Therefore, the restrictions on circulating petitions via the internet are the same as circulating them conventionally.

P Save the Earth, one page at a time. Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Example 12
Costs Q3 (Reimbursement)
02/12/2010 5:37:56 PM

Hello President Obama and administration,

I am writing today to inquire about health care costs and a simple explanation.

The fact that health care costs are going up seems to be commonly understood, to the point of expectation and reliance upon. But when I think about the topic, I realize that I have never heard any commentary on Why the costs are going up faster than inflation and cost of living increases. It would seem many have been trained to accept or expect the increases.

I think it would go along way if you or your administration would give a detailed outline of where the money is going and what is behind the cost increases. Sort of a starting point financially that the country can see what we need to address.

Do the physicians charge too much?

Do insurance companies charge or keep too much?

Do hospitals waste or charge too much?

I can not find a firm reason why this industry grows it's rates at such a faster rate than the rest of the economy.

This, in my opinion would have the greatest impact if it were presented through a news conference or open forum delivered by you and also televised.

Thank you for your work and I hope the health care debate continues and reaches a solution.

Thank you,

Example 13
Costs Q3 (Reimbursement)
Seniors Q1 (Medicare)
02/15/2010 12:05:12 PM

Please pass our solution for the health care crisis to the President. I believe it is a novel solution perhaps not yet addressed. Could the Medicare program negotiate with doctors and hospitals to develop predetermined/ reasonable and customary rates for services offered? This is typical of insurance companies who have negotiated in network rates. Insurance companies do this to save the consumer money yet allow hospitals/physicians pay their bills. Does the government utilize this type planning to keep costs down or just expect their costs be covered with no attempts at negotiating the price?

Example 14
Costs Q3 (Reimbursement)
Prescription Drugs Q2 (Price)
02/15/2010 9:00:16 PM

Dear President Obama,

I would like to ask if future health care reform discussions will include a serious look at how doctors are paid for the services they provide. It seems doctors are paid well for quantity of procedures and diagnostic tests ordered and not for quality care. Also, will there be an in depth study of hospital billing procedures? And finally, when are we going to tackle the horrible costs of drugs in this country? It is so important that the insurance changes which you have so well outlined be the cornerstone of true reform, but we really do need to look at the reasons overall healthcare is so expensive and address these concerns as well.

Thank you for continuing to keep healthcare reform before our congress. I intend to contact as many legislators as I can to stress the need for them all, Republicans and Democrats, to come together and do the work of the American people, on healthcare, jobs bill, and financial reforms. I believe you need Americans to speak up and I am trying to encourage as many as I can to do so.

ECONOMY

Example 15

Economy Q1 (Economy)

11/19/2009 3:05:06 PM

Please stop this healthcare bill. We cannot afford it. Our economy is in shambles. We are in debt up to our eyeballs. We are in danger of losing our great country, our standing in the world if you do not stop spending. You must exercise the same financial restraint that we Americans exercise. Learn from us. Follow us and then maybe we can restore our country to greatness. It is we the people Mr. President that make the country great. Don't disregard us. We want to help you. Don't look at us with disdain. We want to teach you. We are strong and able to work hard and spend less to save this country. Are you?

Example 16

Economy Q1 (Economy)

Immigration Q1 (Illegals)

12/08/2009 2:20:06 PM

1)Health Reform act is really worth every respect and admiration, but considering the fact that the crisis in economy has just happened, my question is - where do you intend to find all that money?2)What about illegal immigrants? Will they be considered as a part of this reform?

Example 17

Economy Q2 (Taxes)

01/7/2010 12:46:08 PM

URGENT: DO NOT TAX OUR UNION INSURANCE, WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT, CADILLAC PLAN. YOU WILL LOSE MAJOR SUPPORT IF YOU TAX THE UNIONS WHO HAVE 30 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT HERE IN CHICAGO. WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? TAX THE RICH, TAX THE WEALTHY? WHY DON'T YOU ROLL BACK THE BUSH & REAGAN TAX CUTS? WHY DON'T YOU TAX THE BANKSTERS?

Example 18

Economy Q2 (Taxes)

01/12/2010 11:43:49 PM

What's the deal with raising taxes on the middle class when you promised not to. Yes the Cadillac tax is raising taxes on the middle class. I thought Barack Obama was President, not John McCain. Why, if he's really president, is he doing just what John McCain said he'd do?

Example 19
Economy Q2 (Taxes)
Transparency Q2 (Televised)
01/13/2010 5:40:17 AM

During your campaign for the presidency, you said that you would be "bringing all parties together, and broadcasting those negotiations on C-SPAN so that the American people can see what the choices are."

Why are you and the Democrats hiding behind closed doors while you are negotiating trillions of dollars in tax increases, which will destroy our economy?

Example 20
Economy Q2 (Taxes)
01/15/2010 8:31:12 AM

So why are the Unions getting a pass "in the middle of the night" when the rest of us hard working folks are only getting higher taxes? So much for an open presidency.

IMMIGRATION

Example 16

Economy Q1 (Economy)

Immigration Q1 (Illegals)

12/08/2009 2:20:06 PM

1)Health Reform act is really worth every respect and admiration, but considering the fact that the crisis in economy has just happened, my question is - where do you intend to find all that money?2)What about illegal immigrants? Will they be considered as a part of this reform?

PASSING HEALTH CARE

Example 21

Passing Health Care Q1 (Delayed)

12/19/2009 2:29:24 PM

Pleased do not stop seniors or any others from purchasing cheap medications from foreign countries. Everything is subject to a global market and drug companies should not be given any special protection...either compete or get out rather than make consumers pay 4-5 times more than other countries. 2. Why do we have to wait until 2014 before insurance companies are required to accept pre-existing conditions? Many people will die from this inaction. Please, Mr President, make these 2 very important additions to the healthcare bill.

Example 22

Passing Health Care Q1 (Delayed)

12/21/2009 12:37:47 PM

hi ...

first of all, i'm supportive of the health care reform initiative moving through congress ...

what is troubling is that the reforms don't kick in until 2013 ...

so what do people do between now and then who have pre-existing conditions and who are unemployed and who have trouble getting AFFORDABLE coverage ...?

a simple stop-gap solution would be to allow folks to stay on COBRA until the reforms kick in ...

i'm not asking the government to pay the premiums ... just let us stay on COBRA until the reforms kick in ... or legislate that insurance companies are required to allow folks to move off of COBRA into an affordable plan ...

can the white house please sponsor such an amendment as this bill moves into conference !!!

we can't wait until 2013 or 2014 ...

please please please !!

thanks ... you are doing a great job and i'm proud to have you as our president

sincerely,
[redacted]

(unemployed and on COBRA which is about to expire)

Example 23
Passing Health Care Q1 (Delayed)
02/15/2010 11:40:09 AM

Dear Mr. President,

I am concerned about health care for my family. I am a working mother of three and my husband also works. We have health care that does not cover our family until we spend \$3,000.00 out of our own pocket. We found out that our daughters medicine went from \$90.00 to \$228.00 every 15 days. We are unable to afford this medicine. I called the drug company and between my income and my husbands income for last year we made about \$200.00 more then the limit for help with her medicine. I know that you are very busy and I know that you read a lot of letters every day. I would like to know how soon health care reform is coming and will it help those of us that are working? I know that those Americans who have no coverage should come first, but I am scared for any of us to be sick right now. We are hoping and praying for change to come so we may get the medicine our daughter needs with out picking between the roof over our heads and her need for the medicine. Thank you sir for your time in regards to this matter. I am so grateful for everything that you do every day for our country. My God bless you and your family.

Example 24
Passing Health Care Q2 (Pushing)
01/29/2010 4:20:16 AM

Health care IS the economy. Health care IS jobs. Why isn't this being said? Doesn't anyone see that it's crippling big businesses ability to compete on the global market, that's it's preventing small businesses from being formed because people can't afford/risk leaving their existing job for benefits, even as the benefits are stripped away from out from under them? Don't people see that jobs aren't going to do them any good if they can't afford to pay their medical bills from their salary? People are dying, going to die, at best lose all they own and the White House and Congress are just giving up in the hope of winning elections they're not going to win anyway when the base gives up on them. Why can't they see that and do the right thing?

Example 25
Passing Health Care Q3 (Compromises)
12/08/2009 2:45:26 PM

If the Republicans are not going to contribute to a constructive dialogue on health care then go around them. If less than a handful of Democrats do not want a viable public care option for the uninsured then go around them.

We need a public care option to keep the health care providers charging fair premiums.

It appears we may need to get a "Quality Health Care Bill" using the reconciliation process so use it. The Republicans used that process to get rid of regulation of banks and wall street to benefit them; not main street. Main street needs this so you and your administration can go on to addressing jobs and the economy.

Also, get rid of that ridiculous 5% tax on cosmetic surgery. It hurts women trying to stay in the work force and they pay for it totally out of their own pockets.

Finally, the latest date the above should begin is January 2013. Get rid of 2014.

Will you do the above?

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Example 26

Prescription Drugs Q1 (Pharma)

11/11/2009 2:06:56 PM

I Hope There Is No Such Deal

I read this 11/11/09 in the Huffington Post. This deal has also been mentioned by Robert Reich. So as terrible as it sounds, it might be true.

Please make a public statement that convinces me that this giveaway to Big Pharma and a similar giveaway to the insurance companies aren't true.

Let's see....trillions to wall street for wrecking our economy, and now hundreds of billions to the rip off health care insurance and big drug companies so they won't Harry and Louise health care reform....which is beginning to seem like a very poor bill.

Where's the real change you promised? This is the sort of corporate welfare I'd expect from the GOP crazies.

And I'll bet you won't hammer out laws to effectively regulate the financial industries, so I'd better take what's left of my retirement nest egg and buy gold and bury it in basement.

This is disgusting. You are wrecking America. And I'm a life-long Democrat. It makes me sick.

Here's from Huff Post:

WHITE HOUSE ADDS 137 BILLION TO PHARMA PROFITS

Sam Stein 11/11/09 Huffington Post

The deal struck between the pharmaceutical lobby, the White House and Senate Democrats has drastically improved Big Pharma's expected profits, a private industry report finds. IMS Health, a company that supplies the pharmaceutical companies with sales data, predicts that new health reform legislation -- combined with a projected upswing in the economy -- will result in a net gain of more than \$137 billion in total market sales over the next four years. The new assessment was contained in document obtained by the Huffington Post. Back in March, that same firm projected a compound annual growth rate of -0.1 percent in the period of 2008 through 2013. In October, with the general outlines of health care reform clearly in place, it revised that number to a positive 3.5 percent for over the same period.

Example 27
Prescription Drugs Q1 (Pharma)
01/20/2010 8:09:14 AM

Anger and disappointment. During the last election we heard the words Change, we heard that the lobby groups would NOT run Washington, we heard ethics would resurge, we heard over and over again that those earning over \$250,000 would be taxed unlike during the past administration and this would help to pay for health care, we heard that for once the middle class would have a protector, we heard we need lower costs for prescription drugs and the words affordable health care. Instead the people saw a back door deal with big pharma which will keep prices basically high, we saw the lobby groups in full form gaining promises and gifts in the Senate legislation, instead of taxing the wealthy the workers who fought for health care are facing the taxes, we saw no real fight for the tax on the wealthy, we saw instead of strength the democrats allowing lieberman, Snowe, Nelson and Baucus controlling all. What exactly did the democrats expect??? Add to that unions consistently take cuts and yet our politicians argue CEO's have contracts that merit respect. Sorry but unions have contracts and they have been consistently disrespected. So apparently contracts can be easily and readily broken. So it should be for the wealthy as well.

Dean was right. We would have been stronger with a bill by reconciliation which insured that those without insurance were provided for and that the gaps for the seniors regarding drugs were covered. lieberman needed to be put in his place and rejected as one of the band of bullies who prevented a more encompassing and stronger bill. The democrats could have insured a cause against the gop in the next election.

But placing a bill into the forum with so many bad provisions, pork, gifts to corporate lobbyists resounded in the fact that change did NOT come to Washington and a rejection against a campaign that indicated one thing and did the opposite which only results in anger and gross disappointment.

Rahm is so wrong. People are not like sheep and progressives cannot be taken for granted and dismissed. You dismissed the base. Look what happened. To Court Snowe and continue with Rahm will only further disintegrate any remaining hope of change other than change has not come to Washington and Rahm proved that. People are grossly disappointed in the shift in government toward misrepresentation rather than representation.

Example 14
Costs Q3 (Reimbursement)
Prescription Drugs Q2 (Price)
02/15/2010 9:00:16 PM

Dear President Obama,

I would like to ask if future health care reform discussions will include a serious look at how doctors are paid for the services they provide. It seems doctors are paid well for quantity of procedures and diagnostic tests ordered and not for quality care. Also, will there be an in depth study of hospital billing procedures? And finally, when are we going to tackle the horrible costs of drugs in this country? It is so important that the insurance changes which you have so well outlined be the cornerstone of true reform, but we really do need to look at the reasons overall healthcare is so expensive and address these concerns as well.

Thank you for continuing to keep healthcare reform before our congress. I intend to contact as many legislators as I can to stress the need for them all, Republicans and Democrats, to come together and do the work of the American people, on healthcare, jobs bill, and financial reforms. I believe you need Americans to speak up and I am trying to encourage as many as I can to do so.

SENIORS

Example 1

General Q1 (Rationing)

Seniors Q1 (Medicare)

12/10/2009 12:15:42 PM

You're going to cut Medicare by 500 billion and then add people from age 55 to 64 to the program. How can that happen without extreme rationing? A warning to you! As a MN Senior I have a long memory. You are no friend of MN Senior's if you continue on the healthcare path you are now on. Scrap it althgether and start over.

Example 13

Costs Q3 (Reimbursement)

Seniors Q1 (Medicare)

02/15/2010 12:05:12 PM

Please pass our solution for the health care crisis to the President. I believe it is a novel solution perhaps not yet addressed. Could the Medicare program negotiate with doctors and hospitals to develop predetermined/ reasonable and customary rates for services offered? This is typical of insurance companies who have negotiated in network rates. Insurance companies do this to save the consumer money yet allow hospitals/physicians pay their bills. Does the government utilize this type planning to keep costs down or just expect their costs be covered with no attempts at negotiating the price?

Example 28

Seniors Q2 (Long Term)

Transparency Q1 (Online)

02/11/2010 1:00:23 PM

Dear Mr. President

We saw this article about health care for seniors and it raised a few questions.

1. Is Long term health care for seniors included in the currently proposed bills. If not are there plans to include it. If so what cost to the Seniors?
2. What are the requirements for being on Medicaid? Must all assets be liquidated to be on Medicaid?
3. What will replace Medicaid in the new proposed Health Care bills?
4. Why hasnt there been a simple point by point explanation of these proposed Health Care bills been available to the average person? Many Senators and Representatives have not even read it but are supposed to vote on it. They dont know what is in there they are just like the public.
5. Mr. President, I am sure you have more important things to do than to research the answers to the above questions, but we taxpayers are paying for a sizable staff who can get the answers.

Thank You

SMALL BUSINESS

Example 29

Small Business Q1 (Affordability)

12/28/2009 4:40:05 PM

I own a janitorial service company that employs 120 people. Our company has a payroll in excess of 1 million dollars. Due to the economy we have lost money the last 2 years and are trying hard to show a profit this year. If this health care bill goes through and we would have to pay for all the employees health care it would bankrupt our business and many others like ours. This would mean I would have to let go 120 people. How is this helping? We need help not more taxes?

Example 30

Small Business Q1 (Affordability)

01/7/2010 10:46:28 AM

I am a small business owner that provides health insurance to my employees at a considerable cost. The NFIB claims that the the health care bill will not lower my insurance premiums and will increase my cost of doing business. Why would I want your health care bill?

Example 31

Small Business Q2 (Penalties)

11/22/2009 8:37:33 AM

Please put a stop to this insanity. Do you know how stupid the U.S. Govt looks by wanting to put people in jail if they refuse to purchase health insurance. I do not think you are prepared for the backlash that is going to come of this. Where is the money going to come from to build all the new jails and prisons you are going to need. Please explain to me the rational of sending people to jail who do not want to buy something?

TRANSPARENCY

Example 28

Seniors Q2 (Long Term)

Transparency Q1 (Online)

02/11/2010 1:00:23 PM

Dear Mr. President

We saw this article about health care for seniors and it raised a few questions.

1. Is Long term health care for seniors included in the currently proposed bills. If not are there plans to include it. If so what cost to the Seniors?
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Thank You

Example 32

Transparency Q1 (Online)

11/09/2009 11:43:56 AM

Greetings:

I have a question regarding the health care reform bill. I voted for Barack Obama for several reasons one of which was his promise to post any legislation, with a pending vote, online for at least five days before it is voted on, so that the American people would have a chance to review it and contact their Congressional representatives with questions. Why is it that this legislation was not posted at all? Is it also true that the members of The House of representatives were not presented with a copy of the text of the bill prior to the vote? How did they know what they were voting for? Why was the vote held late on a Saturday night? I support health insurance reform but how am I suppose to support something that I cant even read? I have contacted my representative in the House, Rep. James McGovern several times regarding this issue and my questions have gone unanswered. I am feeling like this veil of secrecy implies that there are things in this bill that the congress does not want the American people to know about, which is extremely dissapointing and disrupts the credibility of the administration as well as the Congress, in my view.

Example 33
Transparency Q1 (Online)
01/20/2010 7:51:51 PM

Dear President Obama or any Representative reading this,

I have many questions about this health care bill. In many ways this could be a great idea and we need it as soon as possible but I bet there are many flaws, which probably isn't anybody's fault because no bill is going to be perfect. I would like either a copy or link to a fair non-partisan copy of this bill. I'm trying to find one online but I just can't trust anybody. Democrats online say it's perfect while republicans say it's going to "ruin" America. I want to believe that this is a good bill or at least a good start for future bills but I need to see in print a REAL version of the bill. Also if you could answer a few questions for me. Why did the senate take out the public option? The House passed it why couldn't the senate? I hope the reason isn't compromising. That is the wrong way to do it. The republicans are going to hate any bill that effects their pockets or their insurance friends. You need to pass it NOW. Pass it before the new senator gets sworn in. I only have one more question. Is their anyway to combine the house and senate bills? They both have great parts and some bad parts. If you combine them you can take out a lot more bad parts of the bill. Please show me a copy of the bill and answer my questions. Thank you for reading this and I'm sorry for taking up your valuable time.

Example 19
Economy Q2 (Taxes)
Transparency Q2 (Televised)
01/13/2010 5:40:17 AM

During your campaign for the presidency, you said that you would be "bringing all parties together, and broadcasting those negotiations on C-SPAN so that the American people can see what the choices are."

Why are you and the Democrats hiding behind closed doors while you are negotiating trillions of dollars in tax increases, which will destroy our economy?
