Memo for the Movement

Repeal and Replace
July 29, 2015
Washington, DC

The Affordable Care Act, widely known as ObamaCare, is the greatest expansion of government control over the lives of the American people in the 226 years of our republic. The American people fought valiantly against passage of this oppressive law and continue to pay the price for its excesses.

ObamaCare’s first years have been fraught with failure, but its future looks even more bleak. Big premium increases are coming in 2016 for people who purchased health insurance on the ObamaCare exchanges. Millions of others with coverage outside the exchanges lost their previous policies and now are facing double-digit premium hikes. Many Americans say the new policies they are forced to buy don’t meet their needs -- with excessive benefit requirements and impossibly high deductibles. Small businesses will be hit with the employer mandate in January, the Cadillac health insurance tax is looming, doctors are retiring and selling their practices in record numbers, and the price tag for taxpayers continues to raise from this misguided effort to put one-sixth of our economy under government control.

Supreme Court rescues ObamaCare, once again.

The Supreme Court once again has rewritten ObamaCare to save it. Its tortured King v. Burwell decision allowed the illegal IRS premium subsidies to stand, despite the clear language of the law. Now, the only appeal of the Supreme Court’s decision is to the American people.

Americans have made their objections to the law clear in election after election, but 2016 is likely to be different. They want repeal, but they also want to hear solutions. In 2016, they will be looking to conservatives to chart the path ahead, away from ObamaCare’s centralized bureaucratic control and toward a brighter future that puts doctors and patients in charge of health decisions.

Ten Principles for a Patient-Centered Health Care

Charting a path to freedom

Conservatives should focus on presenting a vision of patient choice and true competition to gain a mandate not only to repeal but to replace the health overhaul law based upon policies that lead to quality, affordable,
innovative care. Dozens of quality replacement plans have been offered by conservatives in Congress and in the policy community. We strongly encourage and expect the presidential candidates to offer their own plans as well.

We offer here ten principles we believe replacement plans should meet so a new Congress and a new president can gain a mandate to repeal and replace this oppressive law with Constitutional reforms:

- **Affordability:** The United States does not have a properly functioning market for health care, and the financing system needs to be reformed. ObamaCare’s answer was to vastly expand government programs and impose pricing systems that already are backfiring. Coverage would be more affordable if it were free from the mountains of rules, regulations, and mandates imposed by the ACA. Conservative reform plans should liberate the marketplace to compete on cost and quality in response to consumer demands, as in other sectors of our economy.

- **Choice:** Individuals and families should be able to choose health coverage and care that best meet their needs, free from the straightjacket of benefits ObamaCare says are “essential” but which ignore what consumers prefer. Congress could begin by providing a new set of incentives for people who do not have health insurance. These incentives should be properly structured to create an opportunity for people to purchase care and coverage in an open and competitive market. People also need better information about their insurance options and treatment choices, including clear information about prices and quality. Medicare Advantage can be improved to promote more coverage options for seniors, and Medicaid recipients also should have greater opportunities to pick private plans that are competing to offer creative benefit design and better service delivery.

- **Federalism:** The federal government has vastly overstepped its authority in exerting centralized control over the health sector. The Tenth Amendment reserves the power to regulate these markets to the states, which should have control over providing appropriate protections for their citizens in their health insurance markets. States should be encouraged to create incentives for providers, carriers, and others to compete in offering consumers a range of options for health insurance and services at affordable prices. States also should have much more flexibility in running Medicaid programs so they can get the best value for taxpayers' dollars, including allowing recipients to escape the Medicaid ghetto.

- **Equity:** Health reform must balance the tax treatment of health insurance so people purchasing coverage on their own are not at a disadvantage compared to those who receive coverage through an employer. Equity would also extend support for purchasing coverage to people who do not have health insurance.
• **Security and portability:** People need to know they won’t lose their coverage if they lose their jobs or get sick. People also should be able to own and keep their policies from year to year and switch to other carriers if they choose in a market that responds to their demands for better, more affordable options. As long as people maintain their policies, they should be assured that their coverage will continue without cost spikes if they get sick or hurt. A few sensible insurance rules – not ObamaCare’s repressive mandates – could provide that security and protect those with pre-existing conditions.

• **Impartiality:** There should be no favoritism or special interest deals. Members of Congress, the president, and political appointees should be treated the same as other Americans. Conservative reform should not grant special exemptions or benefits to favored groups or target disfavored groups.

• **Doctor and patient control:** Any health reform plan should keep as its focus the imperative for doctors and patients – not politicians and bureaucrats – to be in charge of their health care decisions. That means allowing doctors and other medical providers to put patients first and to continue to innovate to transform our health sector to enhance the quality and value of health treatments and care delivery to provide personalized care.

• **Individual responsibility:** No health care system can work if people are not encouraged to participate more actively in caring for their health and managing their health care decisions. That means giving them more control over – and more responsibility for – their choices and spending. Health Savings Accounts have been proven to encourage healthy behaviors and responsibility in managing care and costs, and opportunities to utilize HSAs should be protected and enhanced.

• **Life affirming policies:** Health reform policies should affirm health and life, with conscience protection for patients, medical providers, and others providing and paying for health services.

• **Entitlement savings:** The nation’s long-term spending trajectory is on a fiscal collision course. Eighty-five percent of the projected growth in federal spending over the next decade is due to entitlement spending and interest on the debt. (Obamacare alone will add $1.8 trillion in federal spending by 2024.) The threat of a debt crisis is very real and would pose lasting damage to the economy. We must begin now to reform our entitlement programs to avoid an eventual fiscal crisis. Conservative policy proposals must achieve substantial entitlement savings and can deploy the forces of consumer power and free markets in achieving the goals of entitlement reform. The sooner we act, the more options we will have.

Our health sector is stuck in a 20th century command-and-control regime. Conservative policies could move us into a 21st century age of information and innovation. If consumers were empowered to make their own choices
with better incentives, transparent prices, and flexibility in benefits, then opportunities would flourish. If we unleash the innovators, an explosion of revolutionary technologies could save lives, ease suffering, and reduce costs, giving people options we can’t even imagine today. We encourage policymakers and political candidates to be guided by these ten principles in developing their own reform plans.

The Honorable Edwin Meese III
Former Attorney General
President Ronald Reagan

Mr. William L. Walton
Vice President
Council for National Policy

The Honorable Becky Norton Dunlop
Chairman, CAP
Former White House Advisor, President Ronald Reagan

Jeffrey H. Anderson
Executive Director
The 2017 Project

Grace-Marie Turner
President
Galen Institute

The Honorable David McIntosh
Former Member of Congress

Jenny Beth Martin
Co-Founder and President
Tea Party Patriots

Mr. Alfred S. Regnery
Chairman
Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund

Bill Pascoe
Partner
Antietam Communications

Heather R. Higgins
President and CEO
Independent Women's Voice

The Honorable T. Kenneth Cribb, Jr.
Former Domestic Advisor
President Ronald Reagan

Sabrina L. Schaeffer
Executive Director
Independent Women's Forum

The Honorable J. Kenneth Blackwell
Chairman
Constitutional Congress, Inc.

Mrs. Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony List

Doug Badger
Former White House and U.S. Senate Policy Adviser

The Honorable Steve Stockman
Former Member of Congress

C. L. Gray, MD
President
Physicians for Reform

Lew Uhler
President
National Tax Limitation Committee

The Honorable Colin A. Hanna
President, Let Freedom Ring
Chairman, Coalitions for America

Joel Anand Samy
Co-Founder and President
International Leaders Summit

David A. Bozell
President
ForAmerica

William J. Becker, Jr.
President/CEO/General Counsel
Freedom X

Bill Dallas
CEO
United in Purpose
James C. Miller III  
Former Director of Office of Management and Budget  
President Ronald Reagan

David A. Keene  
Opinion Editor  
The Washington Times

Jim Backlin  
Christian Coalition of America

Bradley Mattes  
President  
Life Issues Institute

Rod D. Martin  
Founder and CEO  
The Martin Organization

Sherri R. Martin  
The Martin Foundation

Jerry Melvin  
President  
Florida Republican Assembly

Dr. Theodore Baehr  
Chairman and CEO  
Christian Film and Television Commission™ / Movieguide®

Ron Cameron  
Chairman  
Mountaire Corporation

Clifton P. Schroeder  
President  
Clifton P. Schroeder P.C., Law Offices

Christopher N. Malagisi  
President  
Young Conservatives Coalition

Curt Levey  
President  
The Committee for Justice

Elaine Donnelly  
Founder and President  
Center for Military Readiness

Floyd Brown  
President  
Western Center for Journalism

Kay R. Daly  
President  
Coalition for a Fair Judiciary

Grover Norquist  
President  
Americans for Tax Reform

The Honorable Ken Cuccinelli  
President  
Senate Conservatives Fund

Jim Waters  
President  
Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy Solutions

Richard A. Viguerie  
Chairman  
ConservativeHQ.com

Kevin Kookogey  
President & Founder  
Linchpins of Liberty

The Honorable Walter (Mike) B. Hill  
Member (District 2)  
Florida House of Representatives

David W. Preston  
Executive Director  
Oklahoma Wesleyan University Foundation

Mr. Herman Cain  
President and CEO  
www.hermancain.com

Kimberly Bellissimo  
President & CEO  
ForthRight Strategy

David N. Bossie  
President  
Citizens United

Penny Pullen  
President, Life Advocacy Resource Project  
Former Asst. Minority Leader, Illinois House of Representatives

George C. Landrith  
President  
Frontiers of Freedom

Gary Marx  
Senior Partner  
Madison Strategies
Dan Weber  
CEO  
Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC)

Maureen Blum  
President and CEO  
Strategic Coalitions & Initiatives

Thomas Schatz  
President  
Citizens Against Government Waste

Quin Hillyer  
Longtime Conservative Columnist  
LifeZette

Morton Blackwell  
Chairman  
The Weyrich Lunch

Paul Vallely  
MG, US Army (Ret.)  
Chairman  
Stand Up America

Melissa Ortiz  
Founder & Principal  
Able Americans

Bob Adams  
President  
Revive America PAC

Penny Nance  
CEO and President  
Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee

Jerry Grossman  
Co-founder  
Great Falls Philosophical Forum

Donna Rice Hughes  
President & CEO  
Enough Is Enough

The Honorable Donald J. Devine  
Former Director  
U.S. Office of Personnel Management

Ron Robinson  
President  
Young America's Foundation

Larry L. Eastland, Ph.D.  
Former Staff Assistant  
President Ford

Joseph A. Morris  
Morris & De La Rosa

Kirby A. Wilbur  
Executive Director  
National Journalism Center

Michael R. Long  
State Chairman  
NYS Conservative Party

The Honorable John Shadegg  
Former Member of Congress, Arizona

(All organizations listed for IDENTIFICATION purposes only)