

Town Hall Meeting

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I had the pleasure of attending Congressman Rob Wittman's Town Hall Meeting on Health Care Reform on Monday, January 18 in Fredericksburg. Congressman Wittman provided an update on Healthcare Reform, Medicare, and Social Security.

Keep in mind that the meeting was held on the eve of the Republican Senate victory in Massachusetts, so we obviously had no idea of the outcome and the overall impact.

He stated that the minority (Republican) party had offered over 800 amendments to the House Bill and that they either did not make it out of committee or were not allowed to be heard.

What happened to Obama's pledge for bipartisanship?

He also talked a lot about the need for transparency in health care insurance policies and billing procedures so we, as consumers, can compare apples to apples in making decisions, thus eliminating confusion and ultimately creating an educated consumer base. ***In my opinion, an educated consumer base is something that the Democrats are against, in general, because it fosters independence and not dependency on the government.***

The meeting attendees vented a lot of frustration at the process that Congress is using to try and force through a bill that;

Is being negotiated behind closed doors by the majority party (thus excluding representation of over 47% of the electorate),

Few, if any, have read,

Is unpopular and against the will of the majority of Americans,

Will increase the size of government and expand their control,

Will cost a lot of money and increase the already too high deficit,

Does nothing for tort reform,

Needed bribes of some Senators to get passed,

Was being rushed to passage prior to Thanksgiving – then Christmas – then the State of the Union Address,

Etc.

It is interesting now that Scott Brown has been elected to the Senate, that Pelosi and Reid are saying that they should slow down – there is no rush to pass their Health Care Reform Bill. I have never in my lifetime witnessed a group that is so obviously two-faced in support of the biggest ego residing in the White House this country has ever seen.

Below are Congressman Wittman's Principles on Health Care Reform. I think they make a good basis for bipartisan discussion when Congress decides to get serious about Health Care Reform.

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 choice of doctors and medical treatment options; and c) result in the federal government taking control of 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.
6. Bring fairness to the tax code by providing individuals with incentives to purchase health care coverage.
7. Enact medical liability reforms to expand patient access to care and reduce unnecessary defensive medicine.
8. Improve individuals' ability to buy innovative, portable and affordable health insurance products of their choice, including the sale of health care coverage across state lines.
9. Ensure that Americans have the information they need to make good decisions by requiring the timely public disclosure of health care price and quality information.
10. Develop new models to encourage individuals to plan for long term care needs.
11. Create public private partnerships to encourage research and product development for unmet medical needs and increase funding for medical research.
12. Crack down on waste, fraud and abuse.
13. Incentivize the use of Health Information Technology and protect patient privacy.