

## Speech at Healthcare Bill to be given at Union County Republican Executive Meeting

April 1, 2010

“These are not darker times. These are ‘sterner times,’” so said Winston Churchill at the height of the Blitz. “These are the times in which a genius would want to live,” wrote Abigail Adams to her young son John Quincy who himself would go on to become President of these United States. “The habits of a vigorous mind are formed in contending with great difficulties.”

Ladies & Gentlemen, these are certainly sterner times. And we must work hard to keep them from becoming darker times. We can do better.

We must become the party of Optimism and Opportunity We must become the party of “a Better Idea.” We must become a party of leaders and of bright futures .

The recently passed healthcare bill, the so-called “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,” is an abomination and tramples on the very constitution for which we have shed so much blood over the last 200 years. The 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment to our constitution – You know the Constitution, that document that established the longest-standing democratic republic in the history of the world, the one that put in place a system of government of the people, by the people and for the people, the one that made this country the subject of envy for every man, woman and child in the entire world. The place where even the most vile of anti-American demagogues come for their healthcare. You know that country?

Well, the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of the United States reads:

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

Nowhere in the Constitution of the United States is there even mention of “health care” nor is there any provision allowing the Federal Government to dictate to the people what they will purchase, from whom they will purchase or what they will pay for any purchase.

Our five basic principles of the Republican Party, our party, are:

1. Lower Taxes
2. Smaller Government
3. Free Enterprise
4. Individual freedom and personal responsibility
5. Defend the Constitution of the United States.

Last Sunday, the United States Congress trampled on the Constitution of the United States with the passage of the so-called “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;” and the President of the United States signed that unlawful bill. The irony of the title is incredible. The bill is NOT-Affordable but it is a NO-Choices power grab.

I will not spend time giving you chapter and verse of this bill’s attack on our constitutional rights nor do we need to dwell on its many failures. I would rather talk about where we go from here. What do we, what can we, do about this “Obama-nation!”

First, I am proud to tell you that the Republican Party in North Carolina is aggressively pursuing not only a challenge but also an alternative to this tyranny. Representative Thom Tillis, the House Republican Whip and a representative from the 98<sup>th</sup> District (just north of Charlotte) has set in motion a petition calling on the Governor and the Attorney General to join the legal challenge against the federal government. Thom is leading this effort. You can go on-line and read about it at [www.thomtillis.com](http://www.thomtillis.com).

Additionally, the House Republican Caucus has unanimously endorsed the efforts of Commissioner of Labor Cherie Berry and Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler in their efforts to call on

Governor Perdue and the Attorney General to join the Attorneys General of our sister states of Florida, South Carolina, Nebraska, Texas, Utah, Louisiana, Alabama, Michigan, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Washington, Idaho and South Dakota in their legal challenge to the H.R. 3590 - Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (aka Healthcare Reform).

On-going and open discussion and debate on matters as important as a policy that constitutes 1/6th of our economy is vital. We must work to remove provisions that could cause serious fiscal problems, including a deficit that will be left to our children and our children's children to repay.

There are none among us that believe that we don't need a fundamental reform in how health insurance is handled. It is our responsibility to view health care reform as a work in process, and the current health care bill needs a lot of work.

Regardless of one's position on H.R. 3590, the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," which became law on Tuesday March 23, this federal mandate presents a significant number of legal and constitutional questions that must be answered fully and quickly before the nation attempts to implement this Act.

Let's briefly review just some of the content of this bill:

1. Young adults, that would be our kids, who purchase their own insurance will carry a heavier burden of medical costs for older citizens. This shift will likely raise insurance rates for young people when the plan takes full effect.
2. We will all be required to buy health insurance or face a fine and/or a tax penalty or imprisonment.
3. This higher costs will pinch people in their 20's and 30's who are struggling to get started in life, begin a family and a career.
4. The feds will take a Half BILLION dollars out of Medicare to begin funding this program
5. Young males will be hit the hardest because they actually have lower healthcare costs than young females. Plus since they go to the doctor less often their premiums will have to pay for us old farts who do go more often and use more medical services
6. Each day we learn something new about this bill and how it is going to affect the average American. I guess Pelosi was right....we need to pass it to find out what's in it.....well what's in it is negative consequences for all of us

I could go on and on. But let's consider what could have been done better and what proposals we need to champion.

1. Make health insurance more competitive
  - a. Be able to buy across state lines
  - b. Be able to buy what you actually need and not have un-needed service imposed on you along with their un-needed charges
2. Allow/encourage Medical Savings Accounts and expand their application.
  - a. Deduct your MSA investment
  - b. Pay from your MSA for medication, doctor's visits
  - c. Keep what you don't use each year without a tax consequence
3. Level the playing field for insurance companies and consumers within a state and across state lines
4. Eliminate mandated coverages that do not apply, like pre & post-natal care regardless of gender
5. Allow and even require individual states to regulate healthcare for targeted needs.
6. Allow the states to set thresholds on coverage and on costs. Get the Federal Government out of our healthcare.

It is said that “politics is the art of compromise.” I reject that. We must NEVER compromise our principles, we must never accept “close enough or good enough” until it is right. And right is always enough.

Please go on line to sign the petition to: [www.thomtillis.com](http://www.thomtillis.com). Let us begin now to forge a new beginning in truly affordable and responsible healthcare. Let us begin tonight to identify and work for new ideas, good ideas, affordable ideas. Let us work for:

1. Lower Taxes
2. Smaller Government
3. Free Enterprise
4. Individual freedom and personal responsibility

And Let us Work very very hard to

5. Defend the Constitution of the United States.