

By Congressman Steve King and Congresswoman Michele Bachmann

Liberals have long dreamed of putting the government in charge of America's health insurance industry. Each time they tried, the American people have stood up and rejected a government takeover of health care.

This is different. The stakes are higher and government-run health care advocates are more united than ever before. They believe their political future depends on this bill's passage.

White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel set the tone in November 2008. "You never want a serious crisis to go to waste," he said. "And what I mean by that is an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before."

Emanuel's directive is the underpinning of the White House's approach to health care reform. Chicago-style politics continue in Washington as we speak. We are hearing first-hand accounts of how far the White House, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) are willing to go to pass any bill they can claim as a national health care act.

Undecided Democrats are being promised campaign perks and lucrative committee assignments. They are being threatened with decreased fund-raising support, primary opponents and the loss of committee chairmanships. President Barack Obama has even lobbied members one-on-one aboard Air Force One.

By now, most Americans know the dirty details of Obamacare. It raises taxes. It will force Americans to pay for other people's abortions. It will put the government in charge of more than 18 percent of our private sector economy. It may provide benefits to up to 6.1 million illegal immigrants. It diminishes liberty and gives government more power.

Most egregiously, it is not constitutional. The Congressional Budget Office weighed in on an individual mandate to buy health insurance in 1994. The CBO stated:

“A mandate requiring all individuals to purchase health insurance would be an unprecedented form of federal action. The government has never required people to buy any good or service as a condition of lawful residence in the United States. An individual mandate would have two features that, in combination, would make it unique. First, it would impose a duty on individuals as members of society. Second, it would require people to purchase a specific service that would be heavily regulated by the federal government.”

We can expect lawsuits across the country challenging the constitutionality of Obamacare — if it passes. The Virginia General Assembly has already passed legislation prohibiting the federal government from forcing Virginians to purchase government-approved health insurance. Other states are sure to follow suit should the bill pass — setting up legal battles that will further drag out the debate.

In addition to these legal issues, one group will be hit especially hard – our senior citizens. Always the wisest folks, seniors have been against this bill from the beginning. And for good reason. Obamacare cuts a half-trillion dollars in health care for seniors to lay the foundation for socialized medicine.

Most people today believe they have a better life than previous generations. But they are worried that their kids will be worse off. It is our children and our children's children who have the most to lose under Obamacare.

If this bill passes, health care will cost far more than it does now, or ever did in the past. It will be more expensive for individuals and more expensive for businesses — and it will provide less service.

For centuries, the American dream has been to work hard, enjoy a high quality of life and pass on a better tomorrow to your children. Right now we are at a crossroads, and the future of the American dream is in doubt.

We can take this country on a path where entrepreneurship and investment flourish; where market-driven health care will provide more coverage to more Americans at a lower cost, and where new jobs that pay well are created by the private sector.

Or we can follow the path of more government that gives Washington more control over our lives. Obamacare is just the first step down this road.

As you read this, the fate of Obamacare hangs in the balance. We must do all we can to kill this bill in the next two days.

Keep those calls to Congress coming, and do all you can to stop this monstrosity. The future of America depends on what we can do in the next 48 hours to kill this bill.

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<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0310/34697.html>