

Health Care: This town is paralyzed by the President's push for his government-run health care plan. There are a few bills on the floor under consideration this week, but they are not very consequential and in many cases not controversial either.

All of the health care maneuvering is going on behind closed doors and in the press as Democrats try to rally enough support for either the Obama/Pelosi plan or the Baucus plan without any Republican votes. If they are successful, they will never talk to us. But if they fail, then they must decide whether to compromise or simply abandon the effort. This whole process is expected to take several more weeks, and I am not going to keep harping on the issue week after week when nothing has changed. But I will give you a brief weekly health care update and then move on to other things in future laptop reports.

One reminder for those of you who read this, is that there is an alternative health care plan that I do support. But it is directionally opposite of the President's plan. Rather than perpetuate and expand the third party payer system that currently exists, where most of us are dependent on the government or our employer for coverage, I support a plan which would enable most of us to have control of our own coverage and the ability to change carriers if we are not happy without fear of cancellation due to a pre-existing condition. This plan is called the Patient's Choice Act and you can read all about it on my website by clicking [here](#).

ACORN: Some of you may have noticed the uproar surrounding the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now otherwise known as ACORN, this week. According to its website, ACORN is a collection of grassroots organizations that serve as an advocate for the poor. It has about 1,200 chapters nationwide, was formed in 1970, and has been especially active in the arena of affordable housing.

Most of you will remember that this is not the first time that ACORN has been at the center of controversy, but this time they may have outdone themselves.

During the 2008 elections, ACORN was implicated in a scandal involving voter registration, when some of its employees filed bogus voter registration forms. Now, at least eleven states are actively investigating ACORN for alleged voter fraud.

This week, several videos were released that show ACORN employees suggesting or condoning illegal activity to a male and female masquerading as a pimp and prostitute intent on setting up a brothel of underage women. The released videos did not come from a single

location, but rather all across the country including New York; Baltimore, Maryland; Washington, DC; and California.

Although, ACORN has long been a favorite among Democratic leaders, there has been a tangible backlash against it lately. Since 1994, it has received approximately \$53 million in federal subsidies, however on Monday, the Senate voted 87-7 to block the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from giving grants to ACORN. And last week, it was fired by the Census Bureau, which cited a lack of confidence in ACORN's management. As a result, ACORN will no longer be assisting with the 2010 Census.

Even if ACORN was doing these types of things with private money, it would be bad, but my concerns are exacerbated by the fact that taxpayer money has had a hand in this as well. There is a certain element of irony here. These recent "stings" have exposed ACORN and effectively shown people how to illegally avoid paying taxes or illegally receive government benefits. ACORN has been a particularly partisan operation and therefore has been routinely defended on a partisan basis by Democrats, many of whom now may need to rethink their support.

Until next time, I remain respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "C".

Congressman John Campbell
Member of Congress