

**Answers are in italics.*

Mike Seiltz, Goshen

I was in attendance at the Middlebury town hall meeting but did not ask any questions nor make any comments. I felt that there were more than enough people talking.

You stated that you are a student of the constitution. My questions relate to that document.

How can you, and your colleagues in Washington, reconcile the modern government with the tenth amendment?

You stated that the constitution gives the President the authority to do whatever is necessary for the common good. I did not see that in the constitution. Will you please elaborate on the section of the constitution that grants such broad sweeping powers to the President?

As a frame of reference, I am an engineer by training and career. I am a father of three. I am a cancer survivor. As I grow older, my perspective is becoming more and more isolationist. I believe we should close the borders to illegals. We should evict illegals currently living within our borders. I believe a person should need to be born of at least one citizen in order to be a citizen. I believe we need to help feed our hungry and care for our sick (via churches and charities, not government). Finally, I believe we should tariff imported goods to the same levels as our trade "partners". We need to rebuild our manufacturing structure or we will be forced to become as socialized as Europe in order to compete in the world marketplace.

We need to clean up our backyard before we can worry about the neighborhood.

Obviously the Founding Fathers drafted an initial constitution without the 10th Amendment. In order to pass the new Constitution in the final states, they passed a Bill of Rights, our first constitutional amendments.

“Left to the states” or “the people” has also given the Supreme Court (along with the interstate commerce clause) to expand federal government power at the expense of the states. Ultimately, the Constitution and the early congress let John Marshall and the court become the arbiter and definer of these clauses.

Also as for President/common good: Article 2, section 3 “and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as shall judge necessary and expedient.”

Personal Note: I believe these clauses have been abusive giving too much power to the federal government and to the states. But they do exist.

Riad Ardahji, Middlebury

Greetings: I appreciate the opportunity to ask you directly and i hope to hear a reply soon. too many people try to put government down yet i feel if we dont trust government, then who should we trust wall street, the pharm. companies, Tobacco, oil companies, etc. by the way, congressman Souter, i believe you do have a decent health insurance, well how is it? good or bad? too many people are bashing the government these days because of the powerful lobbying efforts and the special interest are always winning. it is seems like haelthcare is becoming a privilege for the few, that should change. it is disappointing that you can only get health insurance either through a job, private & expensive insurance, medicaid, etc. we spend more money on healthcare yet we are not in the top 10 or 20 in the world. Why? money is not the issue, it is the system, i encourage you to shift this paradigm and make sure everyone is treated equally regardless of status or/and employment. we can do better, we have many heads and we can come up with a compromise. finally, the public option is a GOOD one for competition to keep private insurance companies in check. it is to stop the monopolies and we need to open markets and compete so prices go down. i believe this is a GOOD cause and i hope you fight for the unpriviliged one! feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need clarifications God Bless this great country and democracy! Riad Ardahji 56205 Bridel Path Dr. Middlebury, IN 46540 rardahji@yahoo.com

We need to have decent basic care for all. But the innovations for heart, cancer, orthopedics, and medicines come from profits funded by those we can pay more. The concept of "equal for everyone" (the definition of socialism) has never worked to advance systems. Progress comes from profit and competition.

James L. Lewis, Fort Wayne

Have you considered setting up a government Re-Insurance department rather than providing medical insurance directly to the uninsured? This would be much like is currently done in life insurance on a daily basis. That is, the medical insurance company would be required to provide insurance to people (for a fee), but for a fee to the government they can "lay off" very large claims. Details of the fees and cost of the insurance would need to be worked out by the government and the insurance companies.

Much like a bookie lays off his bets (for a fee).

We have discussed variations of this. I am not getting good answers. It is obviously the answer for pre-existing and catastrophic.

Doug Pyle, New Paris

Can someone tell me how my wife and I are going to keep our business going when my taxes are going to go up. We try and help our employees with health insurance. How come my taxes are going to go up when we are trying do the right thing for them. I don't understand the thinking that is doing this to us. You work hard and someone always wants to take it away from you. It

sounds like the American dream is turning into an American nightmare. I hope we can survive the stimulus era.

Heath care reform is just one part of a systematic attack on profit by this Congress. The people will need to elect congressmen who understand that profit is not evil.

Marty Barkley, Houston TX

Ok this is the question I have: How come we can not cut off health care to those illegally here cold turkey?

`How come we can not just say if you are not legal you have no right to be treated in a Texas hospital no matter what the situation may be, emergency or not? Tell them go back to your home country and let them treat you.

If you are legal you have rights and if you are not legal you have no rights. Plain and simple

I am tired of paying for those who are illegally in this country and expect rights to health care and treatment even though they are not even legal and have no intention to become legal and a part of our community and no intention paying their share for the treatment.

If you are legal, obey the laws and pay taxes like everyone else, you have rights. Those illegally here have no rights because they have

No intention to accumulating to our community and all they want to do is get what they want and get a free ride and make me pay for it.

If someone is illegally here they are taking advantage and cheating Texas and Houston. They are expecting rights that they do not or will ever have. I am tired of paying for someone who is illegal to have health care when they do not have any intention of becoming legal and assimilating to our community. I am tired of paying for those who do not pay their share. If an illegal mother comes here in labor and they do that on purpose, the hospital has to treat them by law. The hospitals are closing down because so many illegal babies are being born in Texas, and the hospital is loosing millions of dollars. . This is the illegally' here's way to sneak in here and get treated without being turned down. Then their baby is considered legal. Now how fair is that that you and I end up paying and then they go back to Mexico? I am also very tired of those who are illegal get sick who go to the community hospital that have an illness or have had a stroke, or heart attack, and go to hospital with an emergency situation full knowing that they have no insurance and no intention to pay their share and I end up having to pay for their treatment that may take months, and we have to treat them wasting millions of dollars on those who have no intention to pay their share of the bill. How fair is that to me who has to pay for those who do not have any intention to pay for their treatment?

I basically agree but the Courts do not. Furthermore, the Democrats have even blocked attempts to ask for citizenship verification.

Chris Treiber, Elkhart

Thanks for being very pro active on this national health care debate.

How can we make sure our opposition to this Obamination Health Care Reform the Democrats are continuing to try and ram down our throats is soundly defeated?

They have not listened very well and it sounds like the President is going to try and wax eloquently to sway the dems to go it alone.

Thanks again for listening.

I do not know if we can stop this. We just need to keep the pressure on.

Megan Moss, Auburn

What are you doing to bring green jobs to Indiana?

Throughout my career I have worked to promote ethanol and soy diesel, as well as wind and solar energy.

I have supported every request from the District, from Water Furnace (recycled water for heat) to solar to wind.

Not just rhetoric, but action for my entire career.

But I also favor oil and gas, clean coal, and nuclear energy (which is also green).

Lynn Prout, Osceola

Can you ask the speaker of the house a question for me on the record? She stated when she took over that politicians who did not follow the law would be prosecuted. Did she mean only republicans? What about Charlie Wrangel? I want to not pay my taxes and write in "OK per Charlie Wrangel"

The Speaker of the House doesn't take questions from me or you.

Bev Carsten, Fort Wayne

Why does the USA continue to import 125,000 foreign workers each month, when there are 1.5M unemployed Americans?

Would you please work to suspend most forms of immigration until our economy fully recovers?
*The Democrats just announced that they would like to move a bill with a path to citizenship.
They also have said no new funds for border control, so millions more will come if they think the
future rewards include citizenship.*

Michael Fuelling, Fort Wayne

1. Lobbying and career politicians make the system corruptable and so they don't serve us but lobbyist. How do we fix the political system that is not what the forefathers envisioned?

2. As in debt as we are how can anyone vote for anything that cost money?

Thanks.

1. Unfortunately, the early American/founders were even more tied –in most cases—to special interests and nota s transparent. (e.g. slavery, British debts, etc) You need moral leaders. Groups also influence through political threats and other ways as well.

2. The standard needs to be against increasing the debt.

Elaine Ridenour, Warsaw

Any hope of getting Tort reform in the Health Care Bill??? It seems to me that that would cut down a lot on the expenses of the physicans and therefore benefit us.

I agree that we need to reform health care, but I don't believe that a govt. option is a good idea. What are the chances that we won't have to have even the door opened for a near future govt. option?

WE THE PEOPLE, AND THE CONGRESS NEED TO HAVE MORE TIME TO STUDY THE BILLS HAVING TO DO WITH HEALTH CARE AND ANY OTHER BILLS that come up.

Tort reform should be the key element of any true cost reduction. In addition to the direct lawsuit and insurance costs, defensive medicine drives up costs.

There absolutely should be at least 72 hours for Members of Congress and the public to read it. I can think of absolutely no reason not to do this.

Jerry Rummel, Goshen

I am not totally against some sort of "National Health Insurance". However, we need to actually discuss some specifics. For example:

1. Will the following types of "Health Issures" be covered:

A. Abortions

B. "Breast Enhancements"

C. Plastic Surgery

D. Many other "Personal" elections that some may claim are for health reasons

None of these types of Health Issues should be covered!

2. Has it been discussed as to maybe starting national health insurance in a small way first. For example, perhaps covering all children under the age of 8. (This would allow for most children to get the required immunizations, etc.)

At the same time we should cover all medical costs of citizens who have attained the age of 70. The biggest fear of an elderly couple is that they or their spouse will have a terminal illness and pretty much wipe out their life savings. This puts the surviving spouse at risk of becoming homeless or financially insolvent to the point that they can't afford their medicines, utilities, property taxes, etc. going forward. (We could even put in a "Recapture Clause" that if a couple has a major medical issue that the Government covers, that at the time of the demise of the surviving spouse, the Government could be partially repaid from the existing estate.)

Thanks for your time.

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Most of these questions were addressed in other questions. All the current versions cut Medicare costs. The Democrats want a "comprehensive" bill and will not allow any proposals to start a "small way." Plus, the word "start" is a bit worrisome in the contract of the total government control by the liberal leadership of this Congress.

Sandy Bartolin, Waterloo

Why do you not support President Obama's plan as written? I have read it and it is perfect as is. We desperately need insurance reform. The insurance companies have made way too much profit at the expense of Americans' Health. The best health care that technology can provide should be a human right for all Americans. Why can't we have the same insurance benefit that you enjoy as a federal employee?

Why can't you help the backbone of America's businesses which are small businesses by offering them the opportunity to participate in your same plans? The more people you have on any insurance plan reduces the cost of the plan (at least that is what the insurance companies have been marketing for years). I and countless other constituents are sick of the bickering that goes on in Congress over items. Pass the bills quickly. What doesn't work, you can fix that later. As it stands right now, you don't have a clue what will work and what won't work. I'm ready for term limits on Congressmen and Senators as that may be the only way to get anything done.

Answer: President Obama does not have a plan. He only stated goals. I oppose the written Democrat plans. We should not pass something so quickly that could permanently damage health care in America. Congress should be forced to be part of any public option if that is the only option given.