

The Glendale Democrat

Volume 1 Number 3

March 31, 2010

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

An Overview of Health Reform

This reform puts American families and small business owners in control of their own health care.

It makes insurance more affordable by providing the largest middle class tax cut for health care in history, reducing premium costs for tens of millions of families and small business owners who are priced out of coverage today. This helps over 32 million Americans afford health care who do not get it today – and makes coverage more affordable for many more. Under the plan, 95% of Americans will be insured.

It sets up a new competitive health insurance market giving tens of millions of Americans the same choices of insurance that members of Congress will have.

It brings greater accountability to health care by laying out commonsense rules of the road to keep premiums down and prevent insurance industry abuses and denial of care.

It will end discrimination against Americans with pre-existing conditions.

It puts our budget and economy on a more stable path by reducing the deficit by more than \$100 billion over the next ten years – and more than \$1 trillion over the second decade – by cutting government overspending and reining in waste, fraud and abuse.

Health reform bridges the gap between the House and Senate bills and includes new provisions to crack down on waste, fraud and abuse.

It includes a targeted set of changes to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Senate-passed health insurance reform bill. Health reform reflects policies from the House-passed bill and the President's priorities. Key changes include:

Eliminating the Nebraska FMAP provision and providing significant additional Federal financing to all States for the expansion of Medicaid;

Closing the Medicare prescription drug “donut hole” coverage gap;

Strengthening the Senate bill's provisions that make insurance affordable for individuals and families and increase protections for out-of-pocket costs;

Strengthening the provisions to fight fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid;

Increasing the threshold for the excise tax on the most expensive health plans from \$23,000 for a family plan to \$27,500 and starting it in 2018 for all plans.

— <http://www.whitehouse.gov>

Propositions on the June 8 Ballot

Proposition *13*, **Seismic Retrofitting** & Disaster Recovery shall not add to a property's tax assessed value. This may also be a huge property tax break for big business held real estate?

Proposition *14*, Brings back the failed **California Open Primary** Election. Voting **NO**.

Proposition *15*, Demonstrates **Public Funding** for CA election campaigns. Voting **YES**.

Proposition *16*, The Pacific Gas & Electric's wind and solar **Power Grab**. Voting **NO**.

Proposition *17*, Permits companies to Reduce Premiums for those who have had continuous auto insurance coverage or **Increase** them for those who have not. Voting **NO**.

— Noel Browning

We must regain our rational humanity ...

•Free Speech does not give anyone the right to lie about, bully, and malign other citizens.

•Where has good taste and gentle behavior gone in a once much more polite society.

There are no good Plutocrats! Ignore the voices of their followers for now and later on just **Vote them Rascals Out...** before they figure out how to ship your job overseas.

— Jonathan R. Hatfield

Wake up!
Citizen



Register Democrat
Vote Democrat

Announcements:

The Glendale Democrats will be Tabling at the Montrose Harvest Market on April 18th & May 2nd. Call Caro Avanesian at (818) 956-7103 for more information or to volunteer your time.

The **Special Election** is Tuesday, April 13, 2010.

The **Primary Election** is Tuesday, June 8, 2010.

Join

the Glendale Democratic Club
at www.GlendaleDemocrat.com.

Upcoming Meetings are on:

22 April

22 July

28 October

Quarterly Meetings are held on the Fourth Thursday of the month at Glendale's beautiful Pacific Park Community Center, 501 S Pacific Ave
Refreshments at 6:30 pm
Meetings at 7:00 pm.

Disclaimer:

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Health Care Bill Takes Away Freedoms

An article printed in the opinion section of the Glendale News Press got me so worked up that I had to reply. I hope they will print it. My response follows this article. —Caro Avanesian

From the Glendale News Press Forum March 26, 2010:

Dear Editor,

The following are reasons why the so-called health-care reform will be a total failure.

1. Our liberal friends consider health care as a “right.” Yet no where in the Constitution is insurance mentioned as a right. In fact, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and even education are nowhere found in the Constitution as being a right. The intent of our liberal friends with these programs is undoubtedly altruistic. However, the results have led America to become a welfare state.

2. Our new health-care insurance law should make insurance much more expensive because more doctor visits will be made, increasing medical costs.

3. Another reason why health-insurance costs and monetary prices will rise is that it vastly expands the institution of third party payer system, which advocates the individual to buy the best quality of services and goods while disregarding cost, money price, and the individuals who pay for that services or goods.

4. Yet the most adverse effect of the newly passed health-care “reform” bill is the mandate to buy health insurance. The mandate is simply a theft of individual liberty on a grand scale. The health-care “reform” bill is a giant leap on the road to serfdom.

What we have just received from our liberal friends is a political solution to a financial and economic issue. As a rule, all political solutions to economic and financial issues make life in general much more expensive and minimize individual liberty

—Robert Buniatyan, Glendale

Dear Glendale News Press editor,

This is my response to Robert Buniatyan’s comment regarding the Health Care Bill in your March 26 issue.

I suggest that Mr Buniatyan read the constitution first before starting to paraphrase the Republican talking points.

The preamble to the US constitution states:

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

I can not understand why these people hate the working and middle class so much? Since whenever any bill that might help the working and middle class, they are against.

Ronald Reagan famously argued that Medicare would mean the end of American freedom. Did it happen? Medicare proved to be one of most successful programs. That is most of the reason that Republicans and pro-insurance lobbyists fought so much against the Public Option.

My friend, what you have just received from your liberal fiends is a gift of life and happiness for you and all Americans. It is not perfect but it is a start. Since it is only a matter of time that I, you, and everybody else will be in a situation that this bill will come mighty handy. Count your blessings.

—Caro Avanesian

A copy of the US Constitution is now available on line at www.glendaledemocrat.com If you have not studied it lately perhaps you should.

Liberal is... Evil

War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength.” Once again we turn to George Orwell to understand the perverse need of some among us to reverse the meaning of words. As the author of 1984 knew, totalitarianism begins with the perversion of language.

Thus, it is not accidental that the rise of the new right began with demonization of perfectly sound words like “liberal”. Hence, Roget gives these synonyms for liberal: magnanimous; benevolent; open-minded; generous; and unselfish.

We describe our form of government as liberal democracy. It embodies principles of freedom, liberty, equality, and justice. Its principles were set forth by John Locke and embodied in our Bill of Rights. We engage in wars to bring this same government to others.

Most recently, a highly intelligent writer, Timothy Ferris, known primarily for his clear elucidation of science, has written a piece entitled: “Conservative is Not Opposite Liberal: That’s Totalitarianism.” To be illiberal, he writes, is not to be conservative; it is, as Orwell had it, to be totalitarian. Ferris correctly says: “Liberalism is an independent political philosophy, with no inherent connection to either the Left or the Right.”

It is understandable that the far-right fulminators begin by perverting language. They are profoundly illiberal in every sense of the word. The values of magnanimity, benevolence, open-mindedness, generosity, and unselfishness are anathema to them. Nor is it coincidence that the age of anti-liberalism is one decidedly anti-scientific, whether having to do with our evolution, changing climate, or stem cell research. Totalitarianism has always wanted to control science for its own purposes.

If we restore the true meaning of important words like “liberal,” perhaps at least a few politicians will not be afraid to use them. As a free man, and a liberal man, I know I am not.

—Senator Gary Hart, www.mattersofprinciple.com

In Fond Memory of
Howard Jacobson
who passed on in November after a long fight against cancer.