

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

REPRESENTATIVE PATRICK MCHENRY HELD PRESS CONFERENCE CALL ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S VISIT TO NORTH CAROLINA

July 29, 2009

To Listen To Audio Of Full Conference Call, Please Visit: <http://www.gop.com/audio/McHenry072909.mp3>

CONGRESSMAN PATRICK MCHENRY: Good Morning, this is Congressman Patrick McHenry. I represent the 10th district of North Carolina. A couple things are notable about the president's visit today. First of all, there is not a Republican Congressman within an hour and a half drive of Raleigh. He is obviously there to target Democrat Members of Congress and our Democrat Senator about health care reform.

It's quite interesting that the blame game is still put on Republicans for holding up this proposal when in reality the Democrats have 59 percent of the United States House of Representatives and 60 out of 100 seats in the United States Senate, a filibuster-proof majority. Yet, the president cannot muster an affirmative vote on this health care bill.

What is also notable are the principles that the president is mentioning today on health care. What is notably absent is protecting the doctor-patient relationship from government intrusion. It's quite notable that he does not mention that in his remarks today. It is notable because that is a great concern among my constituents and the folks in North Carolina. Furthermore, rather than the president talking about the tax increases his plan will impose on small businesses in North Carolina; rather than talking about over 11 percent unemployment rate we have in North Carolina -- even after his failed stimulus was put through the Congress in January and February -- he is talking about a few principles on health care that do not address the meat of his plan. In fact, the principles that he mentions today run counter to his bill in the House of Representatives.

Page 16 in his bill of the House of Representatives says that one year after enactment, individuals will not be able to change their health care, their private health care. In fact, private health insurance plans will no longer be open for new enrollees one year after enactment. So on page 16 on his bill, you can reference Investors Business Daily or the text of legislation in the House. On page 16 it explains that you won't be able to get a new health care plan -- the only option you will have is the so-called government rationed coverage.

So that is obviously very much at odds with the president's promise today. The legislation he has in the House runs counter to some of the very basic principles he's talking about today. But beyond that, the larger issue would be maintaining the doctor-patient relationship from government intrusion and it's not one of his consumer protections that he's mentioning today. So, with that I'd love to have your questions and comments in this regard.