

# Carrots & Sticks

The Premiere DC-Based Action Tank

- [Blog](#)
- [Carrots and Sticks Info](#)
- [Climate Change and Carbon Auctions](#)
- [Transportation](#)

## I Was Punched by a Teabagger Today

Posted August 26, 2009

Filed under: [Health](#), [Meta](#) | Tags: [Healthcare Reform](#), [Jim Moran](#), [Teabaggers](#), [town hall](#) |

Tuesday evening, I went to the widely attended Rep. Moran town hall in Reston to show support for meaningful health care reform and help fight back against the insidious and unruly protests of the teabagger crowd, which was also out in full force. I was unable to get into the event, but did stand right outside holding a sign and helping ensure the enemies of the American people's business didn't have complete control of the scene.

To be fair, most of the folks in the crowd were rather raucous and disrespectful, but still not intent on engaging in violence. Unfortunately, that did not go for everyone. Myself and a handful of other health reform supporters were basically surrounded by a group of perhaps 50 loud protesters in that immediate area, and we had some extra signs to hold for others who might join us to even the numbers out.

Then, a very large man with a Cato Institute shirt attempted to steal our extra signs and run away. Now I am generally a peaceful person, but I'm also a New Yorker at heart and not about to be steamrolled by any bullying types. So I ran after him as he was trying to escape with our signs and grabbed him by the shirt sleeve to slow him down. The corporate-funded neanderthal then turned around and socked me square in the face, just below my right eye, as hard as he could. Not cool. I tried to fight back, but the crowd quickly broke it up, followed by the cops. Ultimately, we were both forced to leave the premises for security precautions. The fat man was quite resistant to that order, but eventually he acquiesced.

A police report has been filed, and although I will probably not press charges, I do want to find out who that man is and whether he has any formal connection to the Cato Institute. Thankfully, I am a former rugby player and can deal with a punch, even a hard one thrown by a strong guy, but it's highly unfortunate that people like him feel the need to resort to violence to get their way. After all, if you are associated with an institution as powerful as Cato, shouldn't you be able to get your voice heard without punching people in the face? That is exactly what is wrong with the American political discourse; when one side feels okay using tactics of intimidation and physical aggression just to advance an agenda, it poisons the whole debate and good policy takes a backseat to who can yell the loudest. We can do better than that.

-Jeremy


---

**Possibly related posts: (automatically generated)**

- [Can Health Reform Be Bipartisan?](#)
- [Paid Pundits Should Be the First Off The Lifeboat](#)
- [Public Plan: Good Policy, Good Politics](#)

- [Pelosi, DeGette, Polis at Stout Street Clinic](#)

## 1 comment so far

1.  bronwyn41 on August 26, 2009

I hope you're OK. I'm glad you're a rugby player. But that effin' sucks. The other things I want to say would probably lower the tone of our blog (most of them involve obscenities).

[Reply](#)

## Leave a reply

name (required)

email ( will not be shown ) (required)

website

Notify me of follow-up comments via email.

### • Pages

- [Carrots and Sticks Info](#)
  - [Links & Contact Info](#)
  - [Log In](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Climate Change and Carbon Auctions](#)
  - [Letter to Congress](#)

### • Allies

- [Complete Streets Coalition](#)
- [DC for Democracy](#)
- [Transportation for America](#)

## • Blogroll

- [Climate Progress](#)
- [Complete Streets Coalition](#)
- [Congress Matters](#)
- [DeSmogBlog](#)
- [Grist Mill](#)
- [Ryan Avent](#)
- [Stand With Dr. Dean](#)
- [Weathervane](#)

## • Information Sources

- [Congress Matters](#)
- [Health Reform Fact Check](#)
- [Info on the Federal Budget Process](#)
- [OpenCongress.org](#)
- [OpenSecrets](#)
- [Vote Smart](#)

## • Recent Comments



[bronwyn41](#) on [I Was Punched by a Teabagger...](#)

[bronwyn41](#) on [Don't Count Your Legislative F...](#)

[Chris](#) on [Don't Count Your Legislative F...](#)

[bronwyn41](#) on [The Insular Obama Adminis...](#)

[bronwyn41](#) on [Don't Count Your Legislative F...](#)

## • Posts by Category

[Budget](#) [Climate Policy](#) [DC Issues](#) [Economic Justice](#) [Financial Markets](#) [Foreign Affairs](#) [Health](#) [Legislative Update](#) [Meta](#) [Social Policy](#) [Transportation](#)  
[Uncategorized](#)

•

August 2009

**M T W T F S S**

[1](#) [2](#)

[3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) 7 [8](#) 9

[10](#) [11](#) [12](#) [13](#) [14](#) 15 16

[17](#) [18](#) [19](#) [20](#) [21](#) [22](#) [23](#)

24 [25](#) [26](#) 27 28 29 30

31

[« Jul](#)

## • Archives

- [August 2009](#)
- [July 2009](#)
- [June 2009](#)
- [May 2009](#)
- [April 2009](#)

## • Meta

- [Log in](#)
- [Entries RSS](#)
- [Comments RSS](#)
- [WordPress.com](#)

•

## • Site Meter



[Blog at WordPress.com.](#) | Theme Light by [Stephen Reinhardt](#)

☺