

Forbes

A Libertarian Approach To President Trump

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November 10, 2016

It appears the next president of the United States will be Donald J. Trump.

In May, I wrote [a lengthy piece](#) for *Huffington Post* criticizing Trump's proposed assaults on free speech, property rights, and the rights of Muslims and undocumented residents; his embrace of violence against innocents abroad and protesters at his rallies; his demeaning behavior toward women, Muslims, Mexicans, and the handicapped; and other proposals and behaviors at odds with the American ideals of freedom and equal dignity for all. "I don't know if Trump will bring fascism to the United States," I wrote. "I do know he is what a fascist looks like at this stage of the process." (My Cato Institute colleague David Boaz [shared similar thoughts](#).)

At the same time, he has pledged to expand liberty and curtail authoritarian abuses of executive power in a way that hits home with me. [Trump has pledged to undo the unconstitutional things President Obama has done to protect Obamacare from democratic accountability, and finally to repeal the law. Trump has proposed replacing Obamacare with expanded health savings accounts—an idea I conceived and have championed.](#) See [here](#) and [here](#). His other proposals are also better than what most Republicans offer.

That is a *big deal*. Americans are suffering under Obamacare and countless other ways government inserts itself into this area of our lives. Repeal would open the door to real reform that fixes problems much older than Obamacare—[reforms](#) that make health care better, more affordable, and more secure, especially for the most vulnerable.

This doesn't change my criticisms of Trump. So far as I can tell, he is still the same man I saw in May. As I [told Reason's](#) Nick Gillespie yesterday, "Health care reform... is not the only thing that matters, and, on balance, I think Donald Trump is going to be worse for freedom than Hillary Clinton would have been. But health care reform is one area where he *might* be better *if* he follows through on his pledge to repeal Obamacare and replace it with something better." I am not convinced he will, and [I offered](#) Gillespie four things Trump could do right now to signal his dedication. (Soundcloud embed below) I'll offer more soon.

My only prediction is that libertarians will do what real libertarians always do: advocate freedom and equal dignity for all—both when the powerful are advancing those ideals, and especially when they're not.

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