

Patriots and resident of Clark County News and Tribune

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Daniels leads in entrenching Obamacare

Even before Judge Roger Vinson of Northern Florida ruled that the new health care law was unconstitutional, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels signed and submitted an Executive Order establishing the Indiana Health Benefit Exchange.

On May 23, the State of Indiana received \$6.9 million dollars to begin implementing the health care exchange program. Health Exchanges will be the insurance company pool, in each state, from which all individuals and small businesses will choose their insurance starting Jan. 1, 2014, unless the health care law is overturned or repealed. Indiana, Washington and Rhode Island were the first states to receive these grants.

This is significant for several reasons.

First and primary is the fact that Indiana and Washington are co-plaintiffs in the State of Florida v. Department of Health and Human Services lawsuit. That case is being appealed in the 11th Circuit Court in Atlanta at this time and it is anticipated that it will end up in the Supreme Court next year. If Indiana is opposed to the new law and fighting for it to be overturned, why is our governor so eager to implement it? His action undermines the credibility of our state officials seeking to overturn the law.

Even though he stated in the Executive Order that the grant application made it clear that Indiana is not 100 percent committed to the exchange, actions speak louder than words. Michael Cannon of the Cato institute listed several important reasons why states, especially those that are involved in overturning the law, should delay applying it.

First, there is no money to waste on programs and agencies that might be repealed or overturned. Next, states mistakenly think they will have some control over their own programs, but the law allows the federal government to commandeer any exchange that falls short of full compliance. But the most critical problem is that creating exchanges entrenches the law making it more difficult to overturn or repeal.

Early implementation lends the appearance of legitimacy, and the administration loudly heralds creation of exchanges and acceptance of federal funds as proof that the law is gaining acceptance. In addition, by creating these bureaucracies and funneling billions of tax dollars through them to insurance companies they will become tax-funded lobby groups, along with the insurance companies, that will fight repeal for their own existence. And finally, Congress and the courts will be less likely to eliminate an actual government bureaucracy as opposed to a theoretical one.

The Obama administration knows that every health exchange that is formed will help them shield the law from the Congress, the courts and the people.

So why Gov. Daniels are you so eager to implement this unconstitutional law making it more difficult to eliminate if you truly believe that it has “serious operational and constitutional challenges?”

— *Angela Hayes, Clark County Tea Party Patriots and resident of Clark County*