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Apathy destroying U.S.; does anyone care?

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Barack Obama ran on the slogan of “Hope and Change.” In the last year of his presidency a poll shows that 40 percent of Democrats and 70 percent of millennials would rather live under socialism. That is an expression of hopelessness and it is deeply disturbing.

Sen. Obama stood on the floor of the senate and declared the debt being accumulated by President Bush as a sign of his lack of leadership and to burden our children with this debt was immoral. President Obama has accumulated more debt than all of the other presidents combined.

Our funded debt is more than \$19 trillion and exceeds our GDP. That alone places America at risk for default; yet it is our unfunded deficits that are our greatest threat. Social Security has an unfunded liability of \$14.8 trillion and the unfunded liability for Medicare is \$27 trillion. Our total unfunded liabilities are more than \$100 trillion. Passing this on to our children is more than immoral; it is a financial holocaust.

Poverty is in the news on almost a daily basis. According to the CATO Institute, in 2014, we had 126 different welfare programs and we spent more than \$886 billion. That is more than \$100,000 for every family on government assistance. Where is this money going? The answer is simple, hand out programs grow by attaching themselves to an endless number of programs. Those who can navigate this maze of programs live the good life on the American tax payer.

The Affordable Care Act is anything but affordable. Our government has proven its inability to deal with health care. Just look at the VA hospitals and the debt from Medicare and Medicaid. If quality health care is a right of all Americans, then add it to the “Bill of Rights” and amend the Constitution.

When the ACA was first passed 23 states formed co-ops within the ACA; in effect, government sponsored insurance companies. The co-ops in Tennessee, Nebraska, Iowa, New York,

Kentucky, Louisiana, Nevada, Colorado, Utah, South Carolina, Arizona and Michigan have already failed. Twelve of the 23, leaving the American tax payer on the hook for loans totaling \$1.2 billion. Ten of the remaining 11 are headed towards failure. Only Maine has its head above water. We were warned, Nancy Pelosi did say: “We have to pass it before we find out what is in it.”

Most Americans have not felt the full impact of the ACA because thousands of waivers have been granted to various companies, unions and organizations. No waiver for the Little Sisters of the Poor. Their fight is at the Supreme Court. Interesting, Merrick Garland, as part of a three-judge panel, voted against the Little Sisters of the Poor in a lower court decision, forcing the need for the Supreme Court ruling. Garland is President Obama’s Supreme Court nomination.

“Religious freedom” has been relegated to mean freedom within the four walls of the church. If Garland is confirmed, the four walls are gone.

History will say that America died while Americans were sleeping. A republic’s greatest enemy is apathy.