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By fitsnews • on March 18, 2011

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South Carolina’s Tea Party leaders are mobilizing against several Republican lawmakers who agreed to sponsor legislation that would begin the implementation of U.S. President Barack Obama’s socialized medicine law in the Palmetto State.

The bill – which would “provide for the establishment of the South Carolina Health Benefit Exchange pursuant to the federal health care act” – is similar to legislation that was recently shot down in Georgia.

Also, governors in Florida and Louisiana are refusing to support the controversial health care exchanges – with Florida Gov. Rick Scott rejecting federal money intended to facilitate the creation of an Obamacare exchange in his state.

“Tea party supporters will not stand idly by while this legislation is shoved down our throats,” a missive from the [Spartanburg \(S.C.\) Tea Party](#) notes. “The Republican party scored huge victories in November promising to protect our liberties and our tax dollars from Obama’s socialist assaults. It is now time for them to honor that commitment – or prepare to be replaced by lawmakers who will.”

Thirteen Republicans – Rita Allison, Liston Barfield, Doug Brannon, Danny Cooper, Nelson Hardwick, Bill Herbkersman, Jenny Horne, Chip Huggins, Jay Lucas, Dwight Loftis, Phil Owens, Steve Parker, Mike Pitts – were signed on as sponsors of the bill earlier this week.

Upon hearing that the Tea Party was mobilizing against the legislation, Allison, Herberksman and Horne promptly withdrew their sponsorship earlier this week.

“The battle over these exchanges represents the front-line of the broader fight to repeal, defund and do away with this unconstitutional abomination,” the Spartanburg Tea Party missive continued. “In that battle there is no middle ground – lawmakers are either working to implement the legislation or they are working to keep it from being implemented.

The legislation – [H. 3738](#) – would establish a statewide exchange in which government bureaucracies organized and regulated the way insurers sell policies to customers. The creation of these exchanges – along with the purchase of health care coverage by individual citizens – is included in Obama’s socialized medicine law.

In January, however, a federal judge in Florida [struck Obamacare down in its entirety](#). That ruling came twelve days after Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives [repealed Obamacare](#) – an effort which has died in the U.S. Senate.

After Obama signed his socialized monstrosity into law, Democrats vowed to undertake a massive educational and public relations campaign aimed at selling the American public on the benefits of the legislation. That didn’t happen ... and health care data that’s been released over the past year hasn’t helped their cause ([click here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#) for a few examples of that).

In addition to its estimated \$2.5 trillion price tag, a [recent report](#) issued by The Cato Institute found

that Obamacare will result in massive new Medicaid expenses for cash-strapped states.

We have consistently opposed Obama’s socialized medicine law. We hate its infringements on individual liberty, but the bottom line is that America can’t afford its **exorbitant costs** or the **new burdens** it would place on the private sector.
