



Obamacare: Reasons to Hope and Ways to Opt-Out

By: Sarah Lee – December 4, 2013

Things have been so disappointing for people that lean right for so many years now that there's a general tendency toward hopelessness and cynicism when it comes to believing that anyone on the Hill represents their interests. After all, it's tough to battle brute accusations of racism and obstruction with reasoned arguments concerning economic struggles and the inefficiencies of wealth transfer.

At some point, people just get angry and lose faith. But take heart conservatives and libertarians: there are people within the district and around the country working on your behalf:

A federal judge in the District of Columbia will hear oral arguments on Tuesday in one of several cases brought by states including Indiana and Oklahoma, along with business owners and individual consumers, who say that the law does not grant the Internal Revenue Service authority to provide tax credits or subsidies to people who buy insurance through the federal exchange.

...The subsidy lawsuits grow out of three years of work by conservative and libertarian theorists at Washington-based research organizations like the Cato Institute, the American Enterprise Institute and the Competitive Enterprise Institute. The cases are part of a continuing, multifaceted legal assault on the Affordable Care Act that began with the Supreme Court challenge to the law and shows no signs of abating.

At the same time, the House Judiciary Committee will convene a hearing to examine whether Mr. Obama is "rewriting his own law" by using his executive powers to alter it or delay certain provisions. The panel also will examine the legal theory behind the subsidy cases: that the I.R.S., and by extension, Mr. Obama, ignored the will of Congress, which explicitly allowed tax credits and subsidies only for those buying coverage through state exchanges...

It's relatively surprising that the "paper of record" picked this story up at all. Less surprising is the disdain for the legal challenge from the likes of *The New Republic*. Note the lament that they come "at great cost of time, money and paper."

People facing personal increases in the cost of health insurance coverage may actually be okay that some money is being spent to help alleviate their future pain. Just a guess:

It's quite remarkable — a slew of legal challenges, at great cost of time, money and paper, over a couple lines of text that almost surely would not have made it into the final law had Ted Kennedy held on a year or two longer or had Martha Coakley been a slightly less dreadful candidate.

But there's the breaks. The ghost of Scott Brown lives on in these unceasing challenges of this duly-passed law, and Obamacare won't be fully in the clear until it's shaken them.

What's interesting is the brazen confidence asserted by this writer that Obamacare must shake these little bedbuggy legal challenges off — swat them away like the little annoyances they are. Speaks a great deal about how this administration — and the media mouthpieces that still shill for them — see the legitimate concerns of an estimated 5 million (at the low end) American citizens.

Legislators are also doing their part to supplement the challenges in an attempt to address the potentially disastrous effects of the new law. From *Politico*:

GOP members of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will highlight the site's disastrous launch in its hearing, "The Roll Out of HealthCare.gov: The Limitations of Big Government." The House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee hearing on ACA challenges will pick at Obamacare's non-website related wounds as well.

Away from Capitol Hill, President Barack Obama will continue the administration's new campaign to refocus the narrative on the law's benefits. Wednesday afternoon, he will address a group of young leaders at the White House Youth Summit and challenge them to use social media and other means to encourage their peers to sign up.

So hang in there conservatives (and liberals too afraid to admit you voted all this in), there are still people working to stanch the bleeding and — if possible — roll back the effort. In the meantime, here are ways to legally and responsibly opt out of Obamacare. Number 2 is a really quick fix and covers you till you can figure out the best long-term option. Good luck. There will be people going to bat for you in the coming months — so keep the faith.