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Has 'Obamacare' kept its promises to Americans?

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A couple weeks ago marked the one-year anniversary of the infamous Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. Since former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi stated "we have to pass the bill in order to know what's in it," lets take a look at the damages and effects that have come from this law that was rammed down the American people's throats.

One promise that was made is that this bill would be a deficit reducer, in that it not only wouldn't cost anything, it would save money. Interestingly, this is not true. Along with the \$950 billion that the bill costs, what was left out were the many new IRS workers that need to be hired, creating a wasteful bureaucracy, entire new entitlement plan and other implementation costs that amount to \$115 billion extra, according the CBO. Also, since the CBO assumed that Congress would pass cuts in Medicare spending by 23 percent, the numbers where skewed in favor, making the bill look deficit reducing.

Another promise that was used to sell the bill to the American people was that if you like your plan, you can keep it. Untrue. Hidden in the thousands of pages in the bill it states that if you have a health saving accounts or flexible spending account you are forbidden from purchasing over-the-counter medication with these accounts. The Cato Institute's Michael Tanner stated that Medicare advantage plans will be phased out of existence; the chief actuary for Medicare and Medicaid stated that 25 percent of these plans will be eliminated. Already, 700,000 seniors have lost their Medicare advantage plan because of Obamacare.

With all of the regulations attached to the Affordable Care Act, many health insurance providers are raising costs or simply dropping out of the market. An article by David Weinberger of the Heritage Foundation found that BlueShield in Oregon has increased its health insurance rates by 17.1 percent and the Celtic Insurance Company in Wisconsin has increase its rate by 18 percent.

Obamacare has even forced insurers in 34 states to exit the market for child-only plans, leaving 20 states without any available options for child-only coverage. These are just a few examples of health insurers dropping coverage because of the high cost of Obamacare. I wonder if these are the kind of options the Democrats and Obama want for America. The one-size fits all bill has already issued over 1,000 waivers to businesses while every day Americans are left to pay the full amount.

Furthermore, an article in the Wall Street Journal elaborated on how Obamacare gives enormous power to the Department of Health and Human Services. One power that this department now has is the ability for Health and Human Services Secretary Sebelius to set price controls on what she sees as a "reasonable" price. And Health and Human Services decides what exactly it thinks you need to buy when purchasing health insurance rather than the consumer having power over what they want to buy. The constitutionality of Obamacare is also in question because it requires everyone to purchase health insurance or face a hefty fine. It's absolutely ridiculous how perverted the interpretation of the constitution has become.

In the U.S. Constitution it states that Congress has power to regulate commerce between states. Since the activity of buying health insurance occurs at a state level, the federal government has no business regulating it. Moreover, the fact that Congress thinks it can force you to buy something is absurd.

Congress has no power to regulate economic inactivity, and thus the entire bill is unconstitutional.

If the promoters of the bill had actually read the constitution instead of tossing it under the rug, Obamacare wouldn't have been passed in the first place. Hopefully, when the various lawsuits pertaining

to Obamacare reach the Supreme Court, the law will be struck down. Recently, there was a victory for the Constitution which Florida Judge Vinson has thrown out all of Obamacare, deeming it unconstitutional.

The Republicans need to take this opportunity to defund Obamacare and eventually repeal this disgrace to the U.S. Constitution and save America from another government boondoggle.

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