



White House budget official contradicts defense of ObamaCare

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The same week free market organizations like [FreedomWorks](#) and the [Cato Institute](#) filed their briefs against ObamaCare to the Supreme Court, White House OMB Director Jeffrey Zients [blew the Obama Administration's defense of the law](#) by admitting that the fines on individuals for not purchasing health insurance coverage are not taxes.

The admission came during an exchange with Rep. Scott Garrett (R-NJ) during a House Budget Committee hearing early this week. Daniel Foster [recaps the exchange](#) over at the *National Review*:

[Garrett] asked Zients if the Obama budget imposes any new taxes on Americans making less than \$200,000. When Zients answered that it did not, Garrett followed up by asking if an individual making less than \$200,000 a year opted not to carry health insurance, in contravention of the Affordable Care Act, is the fine associated with that decision a tax?

After some hemming and hawing, Zients answered that the fine did not constitute an tax. Which is a problem, considering the Obama administration's entire case before the Supreme Court is premised on those fines being construed as taxes, not penalties.

Here is the video of Garrett's question of Zients. The relevant exchange comes within the first couple of minutes.



Unfortunately, this won't be enough to sway members of the Supreme Court, which [will take up ObamaCare at the end of next month](#). However, it does show us that Obama Administration's defense of the law is a fraud.