



purpose, according to The Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, D.C.

"econciliation," The Brookings Institution says, "was intended to bring revenue and direct spending under existing laws and into conformity with the levels set in the annual budget resolution." Initially, it was used to cut the budget deficit by increasing revenues and/or decreasing spending. Most recently its primary purpose has been to reduce taxes.

As then-Sen. Obama rightly observed in 2005, "he reconciliation process appears to have lost its proper meaning." Since its inception, Congress has used the procedure to enact far-reaching omnibus budget bills.

"The Budget Report" reveals that since its introduction, 19 reconciliation bills have been signed into law -- 17 of these have been by Republican presidents. Another three were written by Republican majorities in Congress, but were subsequently vetoed by President Bill Clinton.

It is worth noting that President Clinton wanted to use reconciliation to pass his 1993 health care plan, but Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va, insisted that the health care plan was out of bounds for a process that is theoretically about budgets.

"Reconciliation was intended to adjust revenue and spending levels in order to reduce deficits. ... it was not designed to ... restructure the entire health care system," said Byrd, according to The Cato Institute, a non-profit public policy research foundation headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Byrd added that using reconciliation for health care would "violate the intent and spirit of the budget process, and do serious injury to the Constitutional role of the Senate."

Addressing the issue of reconciliation, again in 2005, then-Sen. Obama said, "You know, the Founders designed this system, as frustrating it is, to make sure that there's a broad consensus before the country moves forward."

I could not agree more with the then-senator, now president. Our Founders necessarily made it difficult for any legislation to be passed. It was part of their plan to keep the federal government constrained.

Like too many ideas that originate in Congress, the reconciliation procedure introduced in 1974 has been plagued by unintended consequences and, per its original intent, has been abused.

Currently, Democrats are seeking to justify the potential use of reconciliation to pass sweeping health care legislation by pointing out the fact that Republicans have also utilized the procedure. While it is true Republicans

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have employed reconciliation, it does not necessarily
make their use of the procedure proper.

When elected officials try to justify the use of a legislative
maneuver by pointing to the opposition's past misuse of
the same procedure, it is clear we have a dearth of
leadership.

There is only one person who can lead during this
contentious debate over health care. It is the president.
We were told during his campaign that he had the
intellect, vision and compassion to lead America into the
future.

President Obama can show statesmanship by leading
from the middle on much needed health care reform or he
can continue the current contentious course.

If the president advocates for the use of reconciliation to
ram health care legislation through Congress, he will
effectively toss a spitball at a majority of Americans.

Democrats may justify it by pointing to the fact
Republicans have tossed their fair share of spitballs. In
the end, however, a spit ball is still a spit ball, and
reconciliation is a measure that is too easily misused by
the majority.

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Sky Pete

Reply # 1

Location: VA

Date: Mar 13, 2010 - 3:35 AM EST

Stop Confusing These People...

The House Can Approve the Senate Bill as is...

And Presto ---- we have HealthCare Reform; given Obama's signature.

The Bulk of Health Care Reform is then LAW...
No Reconciliation Required...

Therefore saying we're are passing Health Care Reform with Reconciliation Is A LIE... and it confuses these folks that come here... (which I'm sure is the intended outcome ... just keep 'em confused, stupid and pissed off)

BUDGET Reconciliation WILL be used by the Senate to make Adjustments to the House/Senate Passed HCR bill that will have an impact on Budgetary Issues ONLY.

Period !...

Health Care reform would have passed by normal Congressional Procedures..

Budgetary Adjustment as request by the House..
RECONCILIATION...

So Please...Ms Boggs....Stop Perpetuating this LIE !...

I know you know the truth.
It's OK to use it.
You Are Hurting America !

 Flag as Offensive

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