

1/19/2010 Letters - The Uses and Misuses of the Filibuster

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LETTERS

The Uses and Misuses of the Filibuster

To the Editor:

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Thomas Geoghegan raises legitimate constitutional questions about the antimajoritarian implications of the Senate's filibuster rules. Curiously, he ignores a more egregious example of antimajoritarianism in the Senate's health care bill, which he supports: "[I]t shall not be in order in the Senate or the House of Representatives to consider any bill, resolution, amendment or conference report that would repeal or otherwise change" the provision establishing a Medicare Advisory Board (which is charged with cutting costs or, some might say, rationing). Today's Democratic majority, with Mr. Geoghegan's tacit acceptance, trivializes the notion of democracy by barring future majorities in perpetuity from fulfilling their legislative duties. If Mr. Geoghegan truly wants to preserve majority rule, he should protest its most flagrant abuse rather than rules, whatever their infirmities, that have been used in their current form by both political parties for 35 years.

Robert A. Levy

Naples, Fla., Jan. 11, 2010

The writer is chairman of the Cato Institute.