

'Scary and risky': White House reportedly slams Palin op-ed

Posted By [Daniel Tencer](#) On September 9, 2009 @ 3:25 pm In

The White House has sent out talking points attacking Sarah Palin's op-ed in yesterday's *Wall Street Journal*, a report at the Politico Web site states.

The former Alaska governor's op-ed argues that it was reasonable for people to believe the Democrats' proposed health care reform includes "death panels."

Ben Smith [1] [reports](#) at Politico: "The White House has ... chosen specifically to focus on former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, and evidently to make her the face of the opposition, or to respond to her ability to project herself into the debate. She is the only Republican named in the talking points."



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"Every non partisan organization that has looked at [Palin's] claims say they are false," states the mailer that Smith says was sent out to "allies" of the administration. "And the ideas in her op-ed are both scary and risky. Eliminating Medicare and giving our seniors vouchers instead is a bad idea that we shouldn't adopt."

That refers to a passage in Palin's *WSJ* [2] [op-ed](#) in which she argues for a voucher system to replace Medicare:

Instead of poll-driven "solutions," let's talk about real health-care reform: market-oriented, patient-centered, and result-driven. As the Cato Institute's Michael Cannon and others have argued, such policies include giving all individuals the same tax benefits received by those who get coverage through their employers; providing Medicare recipients with vouchers that allow them to purchase their own coverage; reforming tort laws to potentially save billions each year in wasteful spending; and changing costly state regulations to allow people to buy insurance across state lines.

Earlier in the piece, Palin wrote, "Is it any wonder that many of the sick and elderly are concerned that the Democrats' proposals will ultimately lead to rationing of their health care by—dare I say it—death panels? Establishment voices dismissed that phrase, but it rang true for many Americans."

The Democratic National Committee jumped into the fray over that comment. Writing at the Alaska Politics Blog at the *Anchorage Daily News*, Erika Bolstad [3] [quotes](#) Hari Sevugan, a spokesman for the DNC, as saying in a statement that "the way Sarah Palin is trying to scare Americans you'd think it's Halloween already."

Sevugan went on: "What the American people find truly scary is that insurance rates have doubled this decade and continue to rise at a rate three times faster than their wages, and that rather than take on the insurance industry Republicans have become their biggest defenders. And what Sarah Palin should find truly scary is that her reputation as a serious leader can in fact sink even lower than it already has when she continues to stand by such outlandish claims."

The Democrats' talking points come hours before President Barack Obama is scheduled to address a joint session of Congress on the issue of health care. Political observers call the speech a make-or-break moment for the

president's health care agenda. Some pundits had urged the president to [4] [be more aggressive](#) in selling health care reform to the American public.

URLs in this post:

[1] reports:

http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0909/White_House_talking_points_blast_Palin.htr

[2] op-ed:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203440104574400581157986024.html>

[3] quotes: **<http://community.adn.com/node/143417>**

[4] be more aggressive: **<http://rawstory.com/blog/2009/09/on-health-moyers-urges-obama/>**

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