

columnists investigative projects videos latest blogs contact us about us login/register

News Washington Sports Entertainment Lifestyle Business & Technology Opinion and Editorials

Home

DriveWays: New Elantra is satisfying to drive and good looking

By FRANK A. AUKOFER, Scripps Howard News Service

Auto Side: Stats on the 2012 Acura TL

Scripps Howard News Service

Tax on indoor tanning salons has owners feeling burned

By LEE BOWMAN, Scripps Howard News Service

We just can't seem to get enough of ancient Egyptian culture

By BILL WARD, Minneapolis Star Tribune

Watch: Behind the scenes, Congress may really deal with the deficit

By ANN McFEATTERS, Scripps Howard News Service

Film: Pettyfer needed convincing he was right for 'Number Four' lead

By BARBARA VANCHERI, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Whitehead: NASCAR still reeling from Earnhardt's death

By BILL WHITEHEAD, Scripps Howard News Service

New app lets docs use cell phones to examine imaging scans

By TOM KISKEN, Scripps Howard News Service

Film: Super Bowl Doritos dog to chew scenery in horror flick

By BRETT JOHNSON, Scripps Howard News Service

In Utah, lawmakers say, you can carry a gun near schools

By ROBERT GEHRKE, Salt Lake Tribune

Hired: How to get hired if you are 'overqualified'

By MARVIN WALBERG, Scripps Howard News Service

Red Sox Ellsbury healthy, raring to go

By BRIAN MACPHERSON, The Providence Journal

Real: Nicholas Cage, Erin Moran and more fall to foreclosure

By SONYA STINSON, bankrate.com

Marvez: Clemmie 'Oscar' Garard on a mission to secure his legacy

By ALEX MARVEZ, Scripps Howard News Service

Should Congress end PBS funding?

By BEN BOYCHUK and JOEL MATHIS, RedBlueAmerica.com

Murdock: Obama grants exceptions to new health care law

By DEROY MURDOCK, Scripps Howard News Service

Thomasson: Sacred Social Security halts debt cut plans

By DAN K. THOMASSON, Scripps Howard News Service

Morrow-TV: Giovino loves readmittance to 'General Hospital'

By TERRY MORROW, Scripps Howard News Service

Relationship: Talk to someone about your problems

By BARTON GOLDSMITH, Scripps Howard News Service

Tigers' Cabrera arrested on DUI, resisting charges

By WILL GREENLEE, Scripps Howard News Service

Murdock: Obama grants exceptions to new health care law

Submitted by SHNS on Thu, 02/17/2011 - 13:48

By DEROY MURDOCK, Scripps Howard News Service [editorials and opinion](#)

[ShareThis](#)

NEW YORK - Twenty-eight of these United States -- encompassing 164 million people, 53 percent of America's population, and 285 Electoral College votes -- are suing the federal government to stop ObamaCare. This litigation challenges the constitutionality of ObamaCare's mandate that individuals purchase health insurance. The U.S. Supreme Court likely will decide, once and for all, if the Constitution's Commerce Clause empowers Congress to force Americans to conduct commerce.

Shattering the ObamaCare Death Star, however, may require slamming it from multiple directions. Hence, an additional legal strategy should address this law's apparent violation of the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause.

ObamaCare is not being enforced equally at all. As of Feb. 9, the Obama administration had granted 915 waivers, mainly to influential organizations, major companies, and pro-Democratic labor unions. Those less lucky or connected have a different option: Obey ObamaCare.

According to the Health and Human Services Department, the waiver recipients claim that complying with new "annual dollar-limit requirements" would cost their group health plans "either a large increase in premiums or a significant decrease in access to coverage." But unlike the objective income brackets that trigger diverse tax rates, "large" and "significant" are subjective criteria. This gives HHS bureaucrats ample opportunity to treat the insured unequally.

Major waiver recipients and their enrollees include the Carpenters Health and Welfare Fund (20,500), Service Employees International Union Local 25 (31,000), Darden Restaurants (34,000), Aetna (209,423), CIGNA (265,000), and the United Federation of Teachers (351,000). Union members represent 43.1 percent of the 2,443,047 enrollees included in these waivers.

"ObamaCare was sold as all benefit -- no downside," Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla., said Wednesday at a waiver-focused House oversight hearing. And now, "2.5 million people literally need to be protected from the devastating effects of ObamaCare."

"The selective dispensations to ObamaCare's mandates that Obama so far has given to various special interests -- especially his union friends -- fly in the face of the Constitution's Equal Protection Clause," says Roger Pilon, the libertarian Cato Institute's vice president for legal affairs. "But they're just the other side of the 'Cornhusker Kickback,' the 'Louisiana Purchase,' and other last-minute shenanigans that Obama and congressional Democrats employed to get this travesty passed in the first place."

"The very interests who supported this law and helped ram it through Congress are now applying for waivers," Betsy McCaughey, president of Defend Your Healthcare (defendyourhealthcare.us), told the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington on Feb. 12. "If government has the power to grant waivers, it has the power to deny them and destroy any business. Americans never should have to slink and sither to the White House for exemptions, like supplicants." McCaughey will ask President Barack Obama to give waivers to everyone who requests them via her website.

While Democrats hail this new law as the greatest medical innovation since the tongue depressor, these 915 waivers may be the most compelling argument



Civil War: 150 Years Later

Our analysis of census data from 1860 and 1870 illustrates just how deeply the Civil War and its aftermath touched virtually every corner of the nation, often in surprising ways.

[Civil War echoes still rattle America 150 years later](#)

[Civil War oddities, tidbits from across the United States](#)

[Civil War, African Americans: history's inextricable bond](#)

[Civil War census: United States changes between 1860-1870](#)

[How America and its citizens from 1860 compare to today](#)

[Editorial: Civil War shaped what became of U.S.](#)

[Map: The Civil War's impact](#)

Serial Killers

Authorities in Indiana and Ohio have launched investigations into suspected serial killings after a Scripps Howard News Service study of FBI computer files found many alarming clusters of unsolved homicides of women across the nation.

[Serial killings study prompts police to launch investigations](#)

[Women account for 70 percent of serial killer victims, FBI reports](#)

[Were serial killings in Wichita a plague or due to better detection?](#)

[Counting the known victims of serial killers by state](#)

[Demographic details of known victims of serial killers](#)

[Top serial killer myths the FBI wants to correct](#)

[Editorial: FBI, police should mine databases to find serial killers](#)

Fracking

A widespread method of extracting natural gas by fracking, or shooting chemical-laced water underground, is a growing threat to water supplies in 28 states, say scientists, landowners

News

National
International
Western News
Politics
Washington
Washington News
Sports
Professional Football
College Football
National League Baseball
American League Baseball

Advertisement

Wanted:
Business leaders
with integrity,
compassion &
conscience.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

Opinion & Editorials
Online Healthcare MBA

[LEARN MORE »](#)

Commentary
Opinion & Editorials

Entertainment

Against ObamaCare yet. After Democrats ignored the screams of the populace and jammed this catastrophe down our throats, they argued that Americans soon would love this gargantuan law.

Lifestyle

It's very obvious that people have a lack of understanding of our health care reform bill," Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada said last August. "The more people learn about this bill, the more they like it."

Democrat

Democrats have it backward. With ObamaCare, familiarity breeds contempt. Nearly one year since its enactment, 57 percent of Americans want ObamaCare repealed, while only 38 percent disagree, according to a Feb. 12-13 Rasmussen Reports survey of 1,000 likely voters.

Meanwhile, rather than clamor to accelerate ObamaCare, unions, corporations, and other prominent players secure the priceless waivers that are their passport out of this mess. Instead of cheerful passengers aboard a luxury liner, those who know ObamaCare best resemble terrified Vietnamese huddled atop the U.S. Embassy, praying for seats aboard the last chopper out of Saigon just steps ahead of the marauding Viet Cong.

Opinions expressed in user comments are not endorsed by ScrippsNews.

(Deroy Murdock is a columnist with Scripps Howard News Service and a media fellow with the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University. E-mail him at [deroy.murdock\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:deroy.murdock(at)gmail.com))

??

??

??

??

2

COLUMN

About Us

About E.W. Scripps

Our TV stations

and
Fra
wat

twitter

facebook

SHNS

RSS

legislation
ohol
of-state

A be
inte

sales of alcohol and help protect the wholesalers' entrenched position as alcohol middlemen.
[Mighty alcohol industry alliance in Washington riven by two-page bill](#)

- [Imagination Movers teach kids to brainstorm](#)
2 comments
- [Parker: 'Gay conservative' is oxymoron](#)
2 comments
- [Oklahoma attracts many from California](#)
2 comments
- [Filling out FAFSA student aid forms can be frustrating, but worth it](#)
1 comments

[Watch the video on www.youtube.com](#)

Manchin & Obama = Joe & O
Watch the Star Duo Perform... Voting Against Repealing Obamacare
youtube.com/thenrsc

Ads by Google

Who's online
There are currently 0 users and 0 guests online.

Navigation
◦ recent posts

User login

Username: *

Password: *

CAPTCHA
This question is for testing whether you are a human visitor and to prevent automated spam submissions.

Math question: *
 * two = eight
Solve this math question and enter the solution with digits. E.g. for "two plus four = ?" enter "6".

- [Create new account](#)
- [Request new password](#)