

- [Funcoast.com](#)
- [Fandy.com](#)
- [MarketPlace](#)
- [Subscribe / Services](#)
 - [Subscribe](#)
 - [Contact Us](#)
 - [Email Newsletters](#)
 - [Advertise](#)
 - [Mobile Settings](#)
- [e-Paper](#)
- [Mobile Edition](#)



Services

- [Subscribe](#) 
- [Contact Us](#)
- [E-mail Newsletters](#)
- [Advertise With Us](#)
- [Read the !\[\]\(9b33568d5c136f08ca688ce48be37574_img.jpg\)](#)

Live, Local Weather

58°

Humidity: **100%**

Wind: **0.0 mph**

Today's Quick Forecast



Hi 82° / Lo 64°

WIN FREE OSU TICKETS!

- [Home](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Daily Log](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Forums](#)

- [Sandusky](#)
- [Perkins](#)
- [Huron](#)
- [Norwalk](#)
- [Port Clinton](#)
- [Milan](#)
- [Margaretta](#)
- [The Islands](#)
- [Bellevue](#)
- [Clyde](#)
- **Extra:**
- [Comics](#)
- [Sudoku](#)

[✉ Email this story](#) [🖨 Print this story](#) [💬 3 comment\(s\)](#) [📡 RSS Feed](#)

OFFBEAT: GOP gives up in health care debate

By [TOM JACKSON](#) | Monday, September 14, 2009 2:44 AM EDT

SANDUSKY

If Barack Obama succeeds in getting Congress to pass a health reform package, there's one group that will deserve most of the credit, and the blame, for the program's good and bad consequences.

I'm talking, of course, about the Republican Party.

No one doubts that health care needs to be reformed. Health insurance costs continue to gobble up everyone's paycheck. Millions of Americans have no health insurance, live in fear of losing it, or face bankruptcy in the event of a serious health crisis.

For more opinions, yours and ours, click [HERE](#)

Lately there's been a rash of free-market alternatives to ObamaCare, many of them featured on the editorial page of the Wall Street Journal.

I have nothing against these ideas. I'm intrigued, for example, by the proposal to expand health savings accounts to more Americans.

But I'd like to ask: Where were all of these free-market health care ideas when Republicans had a chance to pass them into law?

For years, the Republican Party's control of the federal government in Washington, D.C., was about as absolute as it gets in our form of government. The GOP controlled both houses of Congress. It occupied the White House, and controlled the Supreme Court. Republicans could have fixed health care once and for all, if they wanted to.

I don't want to sound cynical, but the history of the Republican Party is that it only produces health reform plans when it had a political need to say, "Look, we have a plan, too!"

When Bill Clinton tried to pass health reform early in his first term, shortly after being elected in 1992, Republicans had alternative proposals. One plan, for example, offered by the Heritage Foundation, would have mandated that every American buy health insurance, and given every American access to the same choice of health plans enjoyed by federal employees. It seemed like a serious plan.

But when Clinton's proposal faded, Republicans forgot that they had their own plan. They didn't dust it off, either, when they took control of all three branches of government.

I suspect it's just not an issue that excites Republicans, the way that national security does, or high taxes.

There are, of course, conservative and libertarians who are interested in health care and eager to discuss it. But by and large, the issue seems to elicit yawns among the rank and file, until Obama starts talking about doing something.

I've started reading a book that discusses free market approaches to health reform. It's called "Healthy Competition," and it's by Michael F. Cannon and Michael D. Tanner. Published by the Cato Institute, a Washington think tank, it's one of the few books in the field that doesn't advocate massive expansion of government as the way to solve all health care problems.

So with the health care debate raging across the country, it must be flying off the shelves, right?

Not exactly. The online catalog for Sandusky Library says that there's only two copies in the entire CLEVNET system, a consortium of libraries across northern Ohio that includes Cleveland. As I write this, one copy has been checked out -- by me -- and the other is still sitting on the shelf, waiting to be discovered by anyone seeking an alternative to Democratic Party health care proposals.

In the meantime, I'm still waiting for my library copy of "The Healing of America" by T.R. Reid, a new book which examines government-run health care systems around the world as models that America can copy. The book captures the debate among Democrats: Should we imitate Canada, or Great Britain, or Germany? There are 34 copies in CLEVNET, all of them checked out.

Health care is not an issue that excites Republicans. But by choosing to do nothing, Republicans have ensured that Democrats will impose their own solution.

[✉ Email this story](#) [🖨 Print this story](#)

Community Comments



[Login](#) to comment on stories. Don't have a login? [Register now](#)

Comments on our site are governed by our [Discussion Guidelines](#).

 3 comment(s)

Samantha Adams wrote on Sep 14, 2009 8:36 AM:

" The Republicans didn't block health care reform because Democrats wanted it. True conservatives blocked health care reform because everything proposed involved massive government involvement, something both unconstitutional and virtually guaranteed to get \$crewed up.

Republicans could have—and should have—engaged in real reform, which would have included tort reform, partial de-regulation of insurance so as to allow competition across state lines, and other regulatory reforms such as those that would make the new drug approval process quicker and less expensive. Want to save more billions? Do what the Constitution demands of the federal government and send the illegals home. On top of those things, the elimination of fraud (which is obviously also something to strive for) is just icing on the cake.

I'll blame the Republicans for failing to see to the latter, but the Dems aren't interested in real reform, either. They're interested in a government that's so large it will bankrupt the country sooner than any healthcare expenses ever could.

Just for the record, the way healthcare is currently managed, with all of its over the top emergency room expenses and the like, is still only about 66% of what Obama wants to spend. It's far less expensive to do nothing than to do something that's wrong. "

[Report Abuse](#)

SamIAm wrote on Sep 14, 2009 8:10 AM:

" I agree, 6079. Why isn't the gov't eliminating all that fraud any way? It's another smoke screen; if they can't eliminate it now, how are they going to eliminate it if this health care plan passes? If anything, there will be more fraud, since the system will be greatly expanded. "

[Report Abuse](#)

6079 Smith W wrote on Sep 14, 2009 7:05 AM:

" Quoted from the piece:

'But I'd like to ask: Where were all of these free-market health care ideas when Republicans had a chance to

pass them into law?'

Simple answer: The Dems blocked the Repubs efforts.

For example: How many Dems supported the creation of Health Savings Accounts?

Question two: How soon will the Dems kill this free-market idea?

The Dems now have an overwhelming Congressional majority and they don't need the Repubs support.

The Federal Govt. is currently the largest health care purchaser in the U.S. Why can't it help reduce the rising costs?

Medicare and Medicaid lose in excess of \$60 billion through fraud and waste annually.

Obama says that a public health insurance option can be paid for with the elimination of fraud and waste in the private sector. How about eliminating the gov't's own \$60 billion fraud and waste problem first? "

[Report Abuse](#)

TEAMRAY CYCLES
SERVICE-PERFORMANCE-REPAIR

GRAND OPENING

DRAG **PARTS**
Specialties **UNLIMITED**

- Metric and Harley Parts
- Complete Service and Repairs
- Precision Machining and Fabricating
- Twin Cam EVO
- Stock or Performance
- EFI or Carbureted

Teamray Cycles
Manager
Darl Beckham

567-214-2013
1400 E. Main St., Bellevue
WWW.TEAMRAYTRUCKS.COM

[More » Top Comments](#)

- [Sex trade flourishes in Sandusky area](#) (92)
- [Schools leave decision to show Obama speech to teachers, parents](#) (55)
- [Perkins students get Mac laptops](#) (49)
- [City's lawyers file objections in Nuesse case](#) (49)
- [Entrepreneurs bank on restaurants revitalizing downtown Sandusky](#) (46)
- [City commission candidates explain why they are running](#) (33)
- [Shifters owners looking for new name](#) (33)
- [Perkins firefighter on leave while DUI charge in court](#) (29)
- [Hometown shutdown: Perkins wins 28-0 over Sandusky](#) (29)
- [SONIC drive-in owner eyes Perkins location](#) (26)

Top Ads by Category**[Tax Specialist - Training](#)**

[Lincoln Town Car, 1987 Extremely clean, no rust ever. Needs nothing. Drive...](#)

[OLDS AURORA 1996 Very good condition, leather, new tires and brakes, Many n...](#)

[Mazda Miata MX-5 2002 32,000 miles. crystal blue metallic, tan interior, ve...](#)

[More Cars](#)



[4 BD, 1 BA, corner lot, 2 car garage, 2237 Fallen Timber Dr. \\$98,000. 4...](#)

[Rent to Own 726 Osborne, \\$1000 down, \\$695 per mo. Call for appl.419-618-...](#)

[More Homes](#)



[CATAWBA ISLAND 2 BR all appliances & w/d, central heat/air mudroom & walk-o...](#)

[BOGART LANDING Gated, new 2 & 3BR apts w/garage. 419-624-0808...](#)

[LRG 2 Bedroom upper on Col. Ave. Heat, water, sewer, trash and 1 garage inc...](#)

[More Rentals](#)

[POLARIS VIRAGE I 2004 Runs & rides excellent, needs no work. 3 vests inclu...](#)

[2 HOLLEY 174 Marine Superchargers kit # 155020-1, Removed from 454 Mercruis...](#)

[Skiff Craft 1983 26' Fly Bridge. Dual Controls 260 Merc Cruiser I/O - rebu...](#)

[More Boats & RV's](#)

Check out our NEW INTERACTIVE FORUMS

at FTMCForums.com

FTMC

FISHER-TITUS
MEDICAL CENTER

Choose a forum that interests you and enjoy advice and support on healthy living.



[Support Obama's Plan](#)

Tell Congress You Support Health Care Reform. Act Now!

www.BarackObama.com

[Stop Obama Socialism Now](#)

Club For Growth's New TV Ad Exposes Obamacare. Help Keep It On The Air

www.ClubforGrowth.org/HealthAds

["Health Care is a Right"](#)

Want Health Care Reform? Watch Sen. Specter at Health Care Rally

Specter2010.com

Ads by Google

Sections

e•Paper - [Read the e-Paper Now!](#)

News: [Front Page](#) | [News Briefs](#) | [Sports](#) | [Video](#) | [Funcoast.com](#)

Extra: [Obituaries](#) | [ViewPoints](#) | [Business](#) | [For the Record](#)

Marketplace: [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#) | [Rentals](#) | [Boats & RV's](#) | [Business Profiles](#)

Classifieds: [Place an Ad](#) | [All Classifieds](#)

Contact Us

[Online Contact](#)

314 West Market Street

Sandusky, OH 44870

419-625-5500

800-466-1243 (Toll Free)

Services

[Subscribe Online](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[E-mail Newsletters](#)

[Advertise With Us](#)

Read the 

All content [Copyright ©](#) Sandusky Register. All rights reserved. [Privacy Policy](#)