

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (OBAMACARE)

By Joe Venuti

First, let's look at the origins of this whole idea. Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney was approached by his Democratic Legislature with the idea of having a comprehensive health care plan for the state. Legislature wanted a single-payer health care system (basically a miniature version of Medicare). Governor refused to agree to a single-payer plan, but he solicited help from the Heritage Foundation to compose a plan he could endorse.

Heritage wrote Romneycare, specifying that only private insurance companies could be involved in providing health insurance. The Dems went along because getting everyone covered was more important than who did the covering.

The Dems have been trying to get a national health care plan for many decades. When President Obama was elected, he made it a priority. The Dems still wanted a single-payer plan, but, as a placation to the GOP, Obama agreed to model his plan after Romneycare, and use only private insurance companies.

In spite of that concession (vehemently opposed by many Dems), the GOP decided to oppose Obamacare. Bear in mind, this plan was created by Heritage, as far a right-wing organization as ever existed. In my opinion, if a different person was occupying the White House, the GOP would have endorsed the plan, but, no such cooperation was afforded the President.

I would like to see Obamacare modified to include a single-payer plan added as one of the many choices insurance seekers now have. The most simple option would be for enrollees to join the Medicare system by paying premiums based on their incomes. Low income people already have the ability to join as Medicaid participants, and for those states who are cooperating with the intentions of Obamacare, Medicaid has been expanded to include people with just slightly higher incomes. The states which have refused this expansion are merely taking another shot at the President in their quest to make Obamacare a failure.