



The Phyllis Schlafly Report

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How Will Your Congressman Vote on Health Care?

The proposed takeover by the Federal Government of all health care spending is the biggest grab for dictatorial power our country has ever seen. It's like a Third World coup, an overnight assumption of totalitarian powers.

The danger to our freedom is not only from the 1,342-page Clinton "Health Security Act." Most of the other bills in Congress include large portions of the Clinton bill, and they are just as dangerous — perhaps more so because they are disguised under soothing words. Democratic Rep.

Jim Cooper's plan and Republican Sen. John Chafee's plan are both called "Hillary Lite" because they are so similar to the Clinton plan. Cooper says his bill is a "first cousin" to the Clinton plan and will achieve the same goals. Cooper's bill promotes the socialist concept called "managed competition," which is really managed coercion.

So, don't be reassured if your Congressman promises you he will vote against the Clinton health bill. Your Congressman should tell you how he will vote on all the controversial issues in the health care debate. Every American should require his own Congressman to answer the following questions.

Telephone your Congressman in Washington (202/224-3121) and ask to speak to his Legislative Aide (L.A.) on Health Care. Then ask the following questions and request an answer. If the L.A. doesn't know the answer, ask him to find out and call or write you with the Congressman's reply. Let us know his response.

1. Will you vote to allow all individuals (not just corporations) to buy health insurance with before-tax dollars? (The present discrimination is intolerable.)

2. Will you vote to allow every American to set up Medical Savings Accounts (like IRAs) with **before-tax** dollars?

3. Will you vote to allow all individuals and corporations to buy catastrophic health insurance with **before-tax** dollars, and then **self-insure** (or pay their own way, or use

tax-protected Individual Medical Savings Accounts) for non-catastrophic medical expenses? (Why does Clinton's bill allow only big corporations with 5,000 employees to self-insure?)

4. Will you vote **against** allowing individuals to be prosecuted for the "Health Care Crime" of seeking better care from a doctor other than one assigned by the Gatekeeper? (Clinton's bill creates a whole array of

"Health Care Crimes" under which individual patients and doctors can be subjected to fines and ten years in prison for seeking treatment after a bureaucrat decides it is not "necessary or appropriate.")

5. Will you vote **against** forcing everyone into a "one-tiered" health care system that makes it impossible for individuals, who work hard and pay taxes, to buy better health care for their families than poor people on Medicaid?

6. Will you vote to **include** a provision that, if I am



dissatisfied with the care or diagnosis given by my health care plan, I will be able to go to another doctor in another plan or in private practice?

7. Will you vote to **include** a provision that, if the Gatekeeper of my plan puts me on a waiting list for surgery, and I feel that the wait is life-threatening (a situation that happens repeatedly in Canada), I can go to a doctor outside the system?

8. Will you vote to **include** a provision that, if I want extra tests (X-rays, mammograms, pap smears, CT or MRI scans, etc.) which the Gatekeeper of my alliance decides are not necessary, I will be able to buy them with my own money without being accused of "health care bribery"?

9. Will you vote to **include** a provision that, if my doctor in my plan prescribes treatment that does not meet federally approved practice guidelines, I can tell him to go ahead and do it anyway and let me accept the risks? (I want to be sure that neither my doctor nor I will be treated like criminals if the treatment fails.)

10. Will you vote to **include** a provision that, if I have an injury or condition that none of the doctors in my plan is able to cure, I can go to a more experienced specialist of my choice outside of my plan without being labeled a criminal?

11. Will you vote **against** forcing all Americans to receive health care through government-controlled monopolies? (Clinton's bill calls them "Regional Alliances" and Cooper's bill calls them "Health Plan Purchasing Cooperatives," but whatever they are called, it amounts to government control under the facade of "private" ownership.)

12. Will you vote **against** forcing all Americans to pay

premiums based on a community rating system? (This will force people with good health habits to subsidize care for people who smoke, drink too much alcohol, take illegal drugs, don't exercise, or practice unsafe sex. Most "reform" bills reward risky behavior and punish prudent behavior by making us all pay the same premiums.)

13. How will you vote to deal with professional sports teams that maintain their own physicians (usually

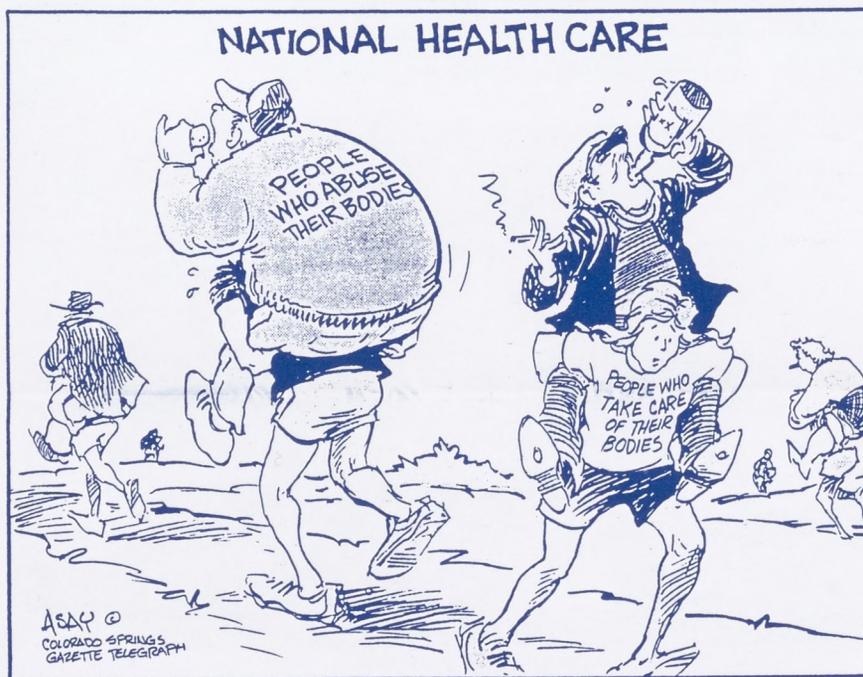
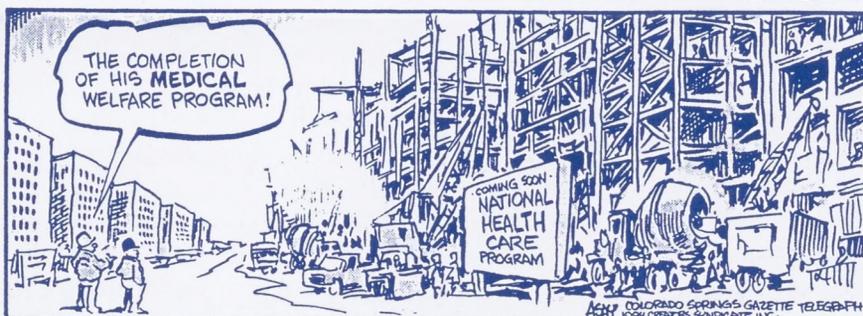
orthopedic specialists) to provide immediate, first-rate medical care for their injured athletes? Will these athletes have to wait in line for Gatekeeper-approval of expensive surgery like everybody else (from ordinary workers to drug addicts)? If so, will their expensive surgery run up the cost of premiums for everyone in the same plan? (CBS 60 Minutes showed one football player who spent \$250,000 repairing his injuries.) Or will athletes be allowed to have their own deluxe physicians outside of the plan? And if so, why can't any group of citizens form a "sporting club" and hire its own physicians to bypass the government-controlled health plan?

14. Will you vote to **prohibit** any state from forcing all its residents into a Canadian-style "single payer" plan? (The Clinton bill allows the states to adopt a single payer plan, a

provision that makes a sham out of Clinton's claim that individuals will be able to "choose" their plan.)

15. Will you vote **against** setting up an all-powerful National Health Board? (Clinton's proposed Health Board, to be appointed by him, would be authorized to control and limit all public and private health care spending under "global budgeting" — and that means rationing of care.)

16. Will you vote **against** forcing Americans to buy



health insurance? (If insurance is such a great idea, the government should not have to send the police to force us to buy it. That's the mark of a totalitarian state.)

17. Will you vote **against** raising taxes for health care? ("Reform" was supposed to cut costs. So we shouldn't have to pay **more** — we should pay **less**. And don't try to deceive us by a system of "stealth taxes" — whereby the government forces us to pay designated amounts to an agency controlled by the government.)

18. Will you vote **against** forcing all employers to buy health insurance for their employees? (Everyone agrees that employer mandates are guaranteed to eliminate thousands, probably millions, of jobs.)

19. Will you vote **against** giving any government agency (such as a National Quality Management Council) the power to control or limit prices or services? (Most "reform" bills depend on price control of insurance premiums and doctors' fees, even though all prior experience proves that price controls **always** result in shortages and rationing.)

20. Will you vote **against** giving the Federal Government the power to reduce the number of medical specialists by restricting how many and who can be trained?

21. Will you vote **against** giving any bureaucrat or "alliance" or plan the power to assign individuals against their will to non-physicians instead of to physicians for medical treatment?

22. Will you vote **against** any legislation that allows big corporations to unload their liabilities for early retirees' health care onto the taxpayers through health care "alliances"? (Did you notice that the CEO of General Motors sat at Hillary's right side while listening to Clinton's State

of the Union address?)

23. Will you vote to specifically **exclude** abortion from any government-defined "comprehensive benefit package" *and* to forbid a National Health Board from forcing insurance to pay for abortions?

24. Will you vote to specifically **exclude** the Federal Government from spending funds — or forcing others to spend funds — to provide or subsidize abortion services in areas that do not have them?

25. Will you vote **against** using health care funds to put condom clinics and government-directed sex courses in the public schools?

26. Will you vote to make it crystal clear that every individual will have access to coverage that enables the individual patient to choose his or her own doctor, and that it will always be possible to opt out of any plan and seek the doctor or care of our choice? (The Clinton bill allows the states to prohibit or limit access to fee-for-service plans or make them exorbitantly costly.)

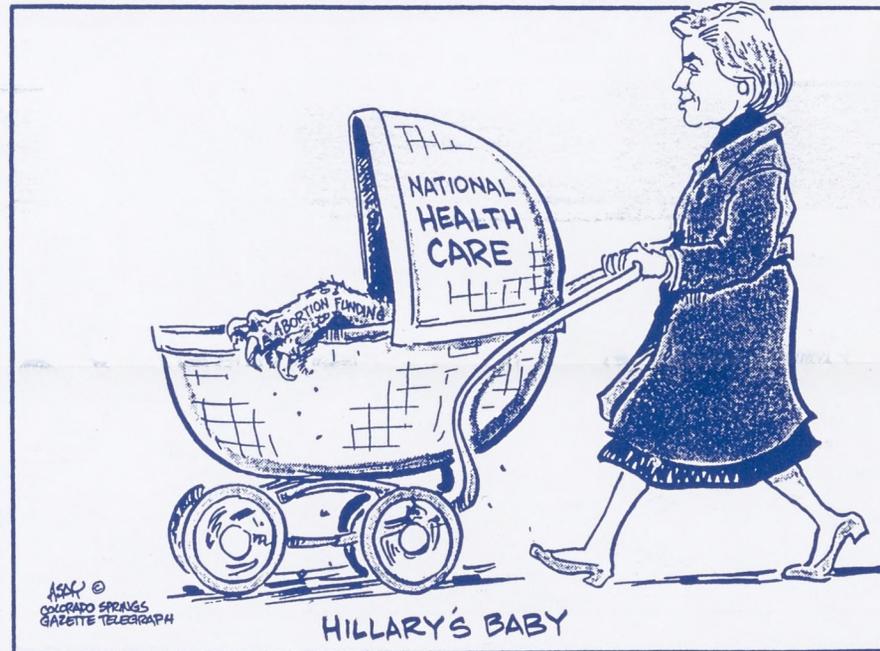
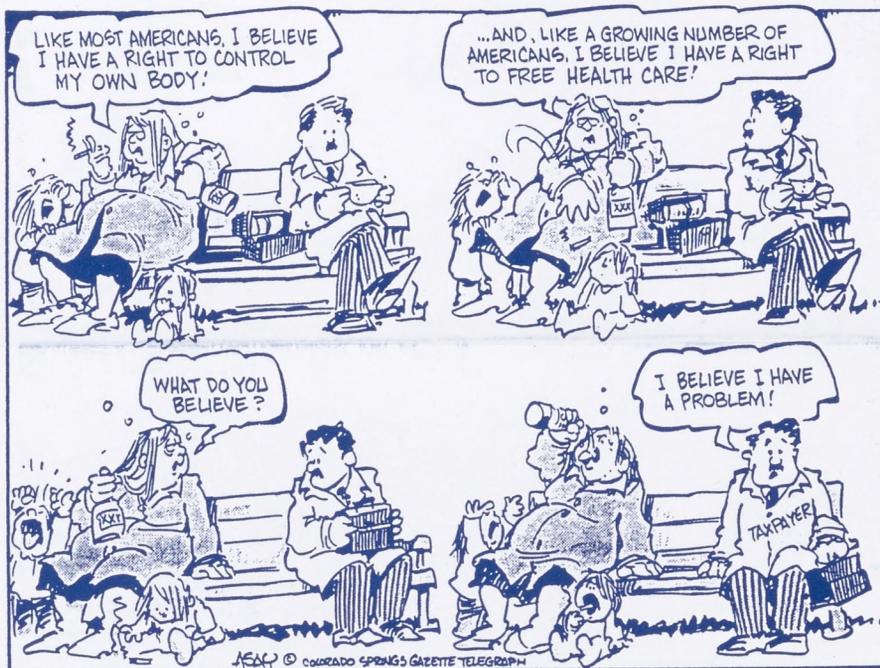
27. How are you going to force the self-employed to buy the health insurance they don't want? Are you going to send the federal police to arrest them or confiscate their bank accounts?

28. Will you vote to allow my health insurance premium to

be **less** because I am a non-smoker? (You're **not** going to force me to pay for health insurance for the smokers, are you?)

29. Will you vote to allow people whose religion teaches them to treat some of their medical problems without doctors or hospitals to opt out of the system?

30. Will you vote to make sure I can buy insurance that does not include expensive inpatient psychiatric hospital-



ization, if I believe in dealing with stress through religion rather than psychiatry?

31. Will you vote to make sure we can have truly private hospitals, as we now have truly private and parochial schools? Or will hospitals be outlawed unless they conform to all federal regulations, such as performing abortions?

32. Will you vote **against** forcing all Americans to have a "Health Security Card" that will give government officials access to my personal medical records?

33. Will you vote **NO** on any bill that contains any of the unacceptable provisions mentioned above, even if Clinton says there is no alternative bill he will sign?

34. Are you for "universal" coverage even though it means that everyone will be forced to buy the **same** health insurance **at the same price**? (Many young healthy Americans with enough income to buy health insurance have made the personal decision that health insurance is a bad deal, and that it is more cost effective to pay for their health care costs out of pocket.)

35. Will you vote **against** allowing Congress and other government employees to keep their preferential insurance for years outside of the plan for the rest of us?

36. Why do you call it "universal coverage" if illegal aliens are ineligible? Are you really going to require hospitals to turn away illegal aliens requiring emergency surgery?

37. Will you vote **NO** on compulsory insurance, government-controlled monopolies, price controls, a government-mandated benefit package, community rating,

a national health board, and global budgeting (the code word for rationing)?

The constant whine for "universal" coverage is a fraud because we already have universal health **care**. Nobody is denied essential health care — not even illegal aliens, although the uninsured may wait longer to be served at a public clinic. When the Clintons use the word "universal,"

they are not talking about **care**; they are talking about **coverage** and **control**.

The issue is freedom versus socialism — running our own lives and making our personal health care decisions **OR** putting a bureaucrat between you and your doctor. Most of the "reform" bills in Congress are really socialized medicine — they are based on compulsion and force. Clinton's bill uses the word "penalty" 59 times, "mandatory" 24 times, "prohibit" 51 times, "restrict" 54 times, "enforce" 87 times, "obligation" 56 times, and "limit" 269 times.

We're looking for elected officials to speak up for freedom and lead the battle to defeat all the plans for Big Government Medicine. The solution is individual tax-deductible Medical Savings Accounts (medical IRAs) available to all Americans. Milton Friedman says this will cut health care costs in half.



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