

6/16/16

Governor Nikki Haley,

I meant to send this letter a few years ago. It was to address Affordable Care issues, but I found it led me into so many other issues, connected to health care, that I was getting angrier and angrier. I put it off until I cooled down and have found my anger has not left me. So I really hope you read my whole letter.

I am glad for the changes Affordable care brought about like health issues cannot prevent you from getting health insurance and preventative care is "free", but health care costs are NOT affordable. At first look at policies, I felt angry that I was forced to stay in my neighborhood, basically, because if I left town, I would be out of network and not covered for ANYTHING. I think the main reason costs are high is because insurance companies are still in control. I even have doubts that the insurance commission in my state is not corrupt. They certainly don't have the average consumer's best interest in mind. My state has NO competition for health insurance companies and has not expanded Medicaid. Are you aware in any sense, how many people are slipping through the cracks? Do you care? As politicians, do you have good health care for the rest of your lives?

My father worked for the federal government for 40 years. When he retired with a good annuity, it was not enough money for him and my mother to live on due to health care costs for illnesses that were not caused by lifestyle. He had Parkinson's and my mother had severe Guillen-Barre. Their children, of which I am one, were raising our own families while trying to help them with their health care costs. They didn't deserve to lose their home because of health care costs.

The institutional homes for older people are only out to make gobs of money (administrators) while there are not enough workers at any time of day, and they don't make enough money, meaning they get a bad attitude and that leads to abuse. It costs even more money to have someone come to a house for personal care, which would be the better solution. Check out the reality of health care.

My husband and I have been small business owners which are still the backbone of this country. I am talking Mom & Pop sized businesses with 5 or less employees. There are no breaks tax-wise or incentive-wise. You may think there are, but in reality, there aren't. The bigger the companies, the more breaks financially. Liability insurance is unaffordable, and we always had to shop for individual health insurance since we never had enough employees to qualify for a group. My question to an agent every year was "what is the expected percentage rate of increase". Then we would have to switch companies to whatever was affordable. It was not affordable before Affordable Care came about. Politicians seem out of touch about that point.

I think you, as politicians, are so out of touch with what most citizens go through in their everyday lives. I see lifelong politicians, not leaders. If you align yourself with the "tea party" I think you are SELF PROMOTING OBSTRUCTIONISTS. I hear you wanting to do things based on theory, not reality. I can hear you thinking that I don't know how things get done in politics, which leads me to another point – abortion.

I am appalled that so many politicians have jumped on the bandwagon to ban abortion for women, saying that abortion is wrong for ethical reasons. But how ethical is it to allow children and adults to die from illnesses just because the family doesn't have enough money for treatments that could save their lives. It is about taking rights away from women to appeal to the religious right who has money for you. How hard are you working to give those pregnant women AFFORDABLE health care, care for the child once it is here, because the father won't be around supporting it. The man was just as much responsible for the pregnancy, but I don't hear that point being made. Working on any laws along those lines? What if the child has health issues and needs care? Do you believe in genetics, or that nature makes mistakes? Do you know how much child care costs? A child with health issues will need care for life, long after the parents are gone. Make adoptions affordable. Again stop working from theories and work from reality. GIVE WOMEN BACK THEIR RIGHTS.

There are so many issues of substance you could work on – line item veto, term limits, affordable education, how about in a domestic violence situation, take the gun away from the angry man before he kills the woman. Oh but it's only a woman and you must support gun owners rights.

You can roll your eyes at this letter and assume I know nothing of politics, but I see your actions no matter what comes out of your mouths and I vote. This letter is to hopefully open your thinking. Affordable health care needs to happen, but it won't happen while insurance is in control and you are all fighting about “do it my way or I won't work with you” attitudes. I am losing hope and patience and cannot afford to WAIT for insurance to be affordable. I don't have the money and I don't have faith that you will do the right things. Don't blame other politicians for your inadequacies, be the heroes, cooperate, negotiate – make it happen. But don't fall back on tea party ideology (SELF PROMOTING OBSTRUCTION), because that thinking is what has obstructed progress.



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