

2842 7th Street West, Apt. 106
West Fargo, ND 58078
January 13, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Gov. Haley,

As a Democrat, I was impressed by your Republican Response to the State of the Union Address last evening.

I will take issue with a couple of topics.

First Topic: Health care reform.

I have epilepsy. I worked as a funeral director at a funeral home in Montana. I had a couple of seizures at home (first seizures in 9 years). I thought I better tell the other funeral director about what had happened (as I was single and new to the community). I lost my job the next working day.

So, I moved back to my native North Dakota to be near family and friends. I had more and more seizures. I paid COBRA premiums that I could ill-afford, no less any doctor bills. I didn't see any doctors for a while. Then, ObamaCare came into being. It was an absolute God-send!

People who have good jobs do not understand or want to understand the importance of affordable health care for people without jobs, for people who are between jobs, or for poor people. How can I explain to anyone what it means for me to be seizure-free since ObamaCare? When Republicans have blamed Obama for The Affordable Care Act, they have been adding insult to injury for millions of Americans who may be down on their luck.

I hope the perception of the Republican Party changes for the better. If the Republicans repeal ObamaCare, they better have an alternative, understandable plan IN PLACE for millions of people BEFORE they do the sheer “macho” thing of having some kind of a political “one ups-manship” over the Democrats. People cannot be left up in the air with no health care or have any kind of uncertainty, especially when they are sick.

ObamaCare has not saved my life, but it has allowed me to have the dignity to get help for myself in a reasonable amount of time at a price point that I can afford. People have justifiably complained about Veterans dying while waiting for health care in Phoenix area. When it comes to health care, all people should be allowed to access health care with dignity in a reasonable amount of time. The notion of “not being able to keep your own doctor” (with ObamaCare) is an issue in some markets, but it is more FRIGHTFUL PROPAGANDA than anything else. I visited more doctors in 2015 than I want to remember. I have had absolutely no problem seeing “my own” doctor or any

other doctor that I have needed to see in a reasonable amount of time.

There is a shortage of doctors all over the United States, but the Republicans cannot blame Obama or ObamaCare for this. This shortage began way before ObamaCare came into existence, and many doctors have left the profession for more interesting or well-paying opportunities. We can't blame any President for this.

In my opinion, Obama was courageous to just START a health care program (whether people agree with him or not). If changes are necessary, changes can be made. But, it would be irresponsible to pull the plug on people who are now receiving help and say, "We're sorry, The Affordable Health Act is out, and you have to find a new plan." A continuum of reasonable costs of health insurance premiums, health services, medical devices, and pharmaceuticals has to be maintained with careful consideration for patients.

Don't kid yourself- ObamaCare has helped a lot of people, even saving lives.

Second topic: Relative Strength of Our Nation

We can all agree that the 17 killings in San Bernardino was tragic. We can also agree that threats of “terrorism” (at home and abroad) are connected to ISIS. And, ISIS is dangerous.

In the “Sound of Music”, the Von Trapp family feared the Anschluss (the Nazi invasion of Austria). This is where PERSPECTIVE is important. In the Anschluss, 65,000 Jews (from Vienna alone) were taken away to death camps of which 2,000 survived. The 17 deaths in San Bernardino pale in comparison to the deaths of 63,000 Austrian Jews related to ONE event. 30 people are killed each day in the United States by violent means. Mind you, I AM NOT DISCOUNTING the San Bernardino deaths. But, it is deceiving for any politician to tell the American public that our Country is losing its strength. We should not over-react to attacks like we have been doing.

If I would lose a family member because of some kind of ISIS attack, I would be devastated. If I would lose a family member because of a car accident, I would be devastated. I lost my Father to Alzheimer’s, I was devastated. I lost my Mom to cancer, I was devastated.

The Democrats and the Republicans have to grow up. Blaming individuals of other parties has to stop. Blaming of other parties has to stop. George W. Bush was blamed for the War in Iraq. Now, people are blaming Obama for ObamaCare and the Iran Nuclear Deal.

History will be the judge and issues we argue about today will be debated after we are dead and gone. We have an on-going process of tweaking good and/or bad decisions made by OUR government.

I applaud you on your fruitful speech last evening. If you are interested in being Vice-President- hold off until the next election cycle. In my opinion, you are too good for any of the Republican candidates this time around. If, let's say for the next 4 or 8 years, you demonstrate beyond rhetoric a unification of both parties- you will be President of the United States.

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