



Congressman Pence joined other House Republicans today to unveil the "Declaration of Health Care Independence, and delivered the following remarks:

**I'm Mike Pence; I'm the House Republican Conference Chairman.**

**Tonight the President of the United States will come to the People's House and deliver his report on the state of the union, and we will find out as a nation whether or not this President got the message on health care, spending, and this economy.**

**On the subject of health care, House Republicans - thanks to the leadership of my colleague Michele Bachmann, Steve King, Louie Gohmert, and, I'm now informed, everyone up here - are vividly displaying that we are not opposed to health care reform. House Republicans, like millions of Americans across this country, oppose a government takeover of health care.**

**Let us say with conviction: the American people want health care reform that lowers the cost of health insurance and lowers the cost of health care in the long term, but the American people don't want a government takeover of health care that interrupts the relationship between the doctor and the patient, that mandates that everyday Americans purchase health insurance whether they want it or need it or not, that doesn't even lower the cost of health insurance for most Americans, it just grows the size of government.**

**Today, House Republicans - thanks to the leadership of all these colleagues here - are asking the American people to join us in this declaration of health care independence that says: 'we want to achieve health care reform in this country that meets the challenges facing the American people;' but we don't want an answer that says 'yes' to government and 'no' to freedom.**

**I'm grateful to have the opportunity to sign this, I'm grateful to all my colleagues for their leadership and I urge every American take the opportunity to sign the Declaration of Health Care Independence.**



The Declaration of Health Care Independence:

In order to retain the Blessings of Liberty as secured to us by our Founding Fathers and as expressed in our Constitution, We the People reject the imposition upon us of a new, Washington-controlled system of government-run health care. We demand Constitutional protection of the right to make our own health decisions and our own health care choices free of government denials, bureaucratic red-tape, and greater intergenerational debt.

A Washington takeover of American health care will

- 1) Deny fundamental personal and economic liberties and indisputably violate the Principle of Limited Government as established by the Constitution;
  
- 2) Impose increased costs and taxes upon individuals, families, and businesses, as well as taxpayers at the federal, state, and local levels;
  
- 3) Irreparably cripple the American economy, at the cost of jobs, businesses, productivity, and quality of life;
  
- 4) Create an inescapable new tax by imposing individual and employer mandates;
  
- 5) Institutionalize a massive, ever-expanding federal bureaucracy that is impersonal and impractical;
  
- 6) Empower bureaucrats to interfere in the doctor-patient relationship, undermine the quality of care, limit choice, and increase the cost of health care.

We have appealed to the decency of the elected majority to respect the rights of all Americans, but their leaders have been deaf to the Voice of the People. We are appalled by their cavalier disregard of the Constitution and of the demands of the People. We are repulsed by their

blatant political bribes and kickbacks.

We, therefore, the People and Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, do solemnly Publish and Declare that health care reform, as a matter of principle must

- 1) Protect as inviolate the vital doctor-patient relationship;
- 2) Reject any addition to the crushing national debt heaped upon all Americans;
- 3) Improve, rather than diminish, the quality of care that Americans enjoy;
- 4) Be negotiated publically, transparently, with genuine accountability and oversight, and be free from political favoritism;
- 5) Treat private citizens at least as well as political officials;
- 6) Protect taxpayers from funding of abortion and abortion coverage;
- 7) Reject all new mandates on patients, employers, individuals, or states;
- 8) Prohibit expansion of taxpayer funded health care to those unlawfully present in the United States;
- 9) Guarantee Equal Protection under the law and the Constitution;

10) Empower, rather than limit, an open and accessible marketplace of health care choice and opportunity.

