

August 6, 2009

Health Insurance Reform Opponents Are Afraid of the Facts

Health insurance reform opponents are losing the debate so they are trying to stop it. They are afraid of the facts. So they are encouraging disruption of public events to try to stop the debate about health insurance reform, the evidence is indisputable:

Special Interests

Washington Posts's Plum Line: "America's Health Insurance Plans... is distributing a new set of talking points for use at these meetings — ones that bash the public insurance option, one of the principles Obama has articulated for reform... It's indisputable that the industry is orchestrating public opposition to one of health care reform's most important components." [The Plum Line, 8/6/09]

Politico's Pulse : "Conservative and business groups are mobilizing members and supporters to participate in health-care forums that lawmakers are holding back in their states and districts this month..." [Politico Pulse, 8/6/09]

Politico's Playbook: "America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP -- the national association representing nearly 1,300 member companies providing health insurance coverage to more than 200 million Americans) is urging the industry's hundreds of thousands of employees to GO TO TOWN MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN AUGUST TO CONFRONT THEM..." [Politico, 8/2/09]

Politico's The Huddle: "... national conservative interest groups like FreedomWorks and Conservatives for Patients Rights are taking some credit for the hostile crowds, undermining the notion that these are purely local grassroots uprisings..." [Politico, 8/5/09]

Politico's The Huddle: "ASTROTURF PROTESTERS? Some of the town hall disrupters appear to be coming from outside of lawmakers' districts, encouraged by conservative Internet sites..." [Politico, 8/5/09]

Roll Call: "Grover Norquist, president of the conservative Americans for Tax Reform, said... his group is just one of several organizations, including Americans for Prosperity and the National Conservative Union, that have encouraged members to attend town-hall meetings..." [Roll Call, 8/5/09]

Washington Post: "... Some have been organized by the group Conservatives for Patients' Rights, whose public relations team helped mastermind the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth attacks against Sen. John F. Kerry (D-Mass.) in his failed 2004 presidential bid." [Washington Post, 8/5/09]

ABC World News Tonight: “One official from Freedom Works-run by corporate lobbyist Dick Armey says his group is organizing...” [ABC News, 8/4/09]

Washington Post's Plum Line: “Conservatives for Patients' Rights, the operation that's running a national campaign against a public health care option, is now publicly taking credit for helping gin up the sometimes-rowdy outbursts targeting House Dems at town hall meetings around the country, raising questions about their spontaneity...” [The Plum Line, 8/4/09]