

To: Chairperson Kristina Roegner, Vice Chair John Becker, and members of the House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee

As an Ohio resident and taxpayer, I urge Ohio legislators to pass the Ohio HealthCare Compact and participate in the protection provided by that Compact when the Compact passes the U.S. Congress. I am one of millions of Americans who have opposed the Affordable Care Act (ACA) from the get-go. I co-organized and was part of delegations to the offices of Senators Brown and Voinovich to express reasons for opposition, and to prepare, I studied as much of the actual bill as was possible, given that the only online resource was the House bill. I opposed the ACA on many grounds: invasion of privacy; intrusion of government into industries where it should have no role; destabilizing a system that already provided care to those who could not afford it; wrecking an industry that has been damaged in the first place by government interference; and claiming to make it all better by imposing yet more government interference.

But most of all, I oppose government agencies getting between me and my doctors, even to the point where I lose my doctors and probably my choice of future doctors. Several of my physicians have already taken early retirement or moved to fields where the government is not as intrusive. So far, my husband and I have had to change plans twice; we are on our third plan, paying more for less. I have lost two GPs and two OB-Gyns. Several other health care providers of my acquaintance are leaving their practices. I do not want ANYONE to be the victim of rationing and I do not want anyone in Ohio to be facing basic healthcare, much less life-and-death, decisions made by some faceless bureaucrat who controls access, procedures, medications, treatment, etc.

Another example of the Affordable Care Act's fallout is my husband's livelihood. Ever since the ACA loomed on the horizon, health care institutions have been responding and realigning to prepare for the worst. The worst included the closing down of an IT department where my husband worked; the department builds and maintains database software for one of the health care institutions. So my husband had the unwanted choice of retirement or relocation. I am outraged at the enforced reduction in productivity and competition, and the un-American interference in the free market.

For all these reasons, I urge the passage of the Ohio Health Care Compact, so that Ohio residents, with their doctors, can restore control over their health care decisions.

Finally, free market solutions can address the myriad problems that rendered our pre-Obamacare healthcare industry imperfect. First, get the government out of the way. Then, look at tort reform; several states have already implemented tort reforms, for example Mississippi. Then, privatize the companies that go after Medicare and Medicaid fraud; government agencies cannot police themselves. Then, let individuals have portable policies and cooperate with other states, so that health insurance can be sold across state lines. All these initiatives would not only increase competition, improve care, and bring down costs; they would do so almost overnight. The new administration plans to nominate Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) to head up Health and Human Services in DC, and he has supported the HealthCare Compact legislation from the beginning. So the Compact is a concept whose time has come.

My testimony to Ohio lawmakers: Pass the Ohio Health Care Compact. From a politician's perspective, several years ago, the Ohio Health Care Freedom bill passed in all 88 counties. That should provide any reluctant legislator with the best of reasons to vote for the Compact.

Respectfully,
Diana Price
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