

*Nothing is politically
right that is
morally wrong.*



*Free and fair discussion
is the firmest
friend of truth.*

MISSOURI SENATE JEFFERSON CITY

Word Count: 508

January 8, 2010

Op-Ed: State Senator Says Missouri Should Avoid Congress' Mistakes

The idea to take more than 20 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would be done without your input, if our nation's leaders pass health care legislation currently being discussed in a House-Senate conference committee in Washington, D.C. The idea to opt out of the federal takeover of health care should be left up to you.

Many believe the U.S. Constitution provides no authority for Congress to enact this type of legislation and ignore states' rights. I agree.

I, along with more than a dozen of my colleagues in the Missouri Senate, am co-sponsoring [Senate Joint Resolution 25](#), which would attempt to allow Missouri to opt out of any federal laws that would interfere with your freedom of choice in health care.

Unlike the so-called health care "reform" measure that is being debated in the U.S. Senate, the constitutional amendment we are introducing in the *Missouri* Senate would go to a vote of the people. If the resolution passes out of the General Assembly, and voters approve the measure as well, it would not affect laws or regulations that are on-the-books as of January 1, 2010.

The current plans on Capitol Hill are filled with tax increases. Even though health care reform would not start until 2013, the tax hikes would take effect immediately, creating a pool of money for the federal government to utilize in order to start the ball rolling in four years.

These proposals have a direct and indirect effect on all taxpayers in Missouri and our state budget.

Some of the tax increases include penalties for not signing on to whatever plan the federal government mandates, penalties for doctors and hospitals that do not cooperate and new fees on items like wheelchairs and hearing aids. *Everyone* would be hit by these outrageous penalties — not just tax hikes on the rich — all in the name of "reform."

When Congress went home for its summer break last year, most members held town hall meetings. These gatherings were filled with people who had a great deal of concern about what was in the bill. Unfortunately, most Congressmen had not read anything in the bill, much less a bill summary, and had no idea what was in the thousands of pages contained in the bill.

But, citizens have been reading the bill — in its different stages, staying up-to-date on this issue and they are not happy. Sadly, Congress is continuing to move ahead with this and ignoring the American public.

I have every confidence Senate Joint Resolution 25 will pick up more co-sponsors and more momentum as the session progresses this year, making its way to your November 2010 ballot. I pray the men and women in Congress will wake up and understand that taking over one-sixth of

the GDP and controlling health care issues, such as who can see their doctor, is NOT a part of the America I know and love.

Congress is currently hashing out the Senate and House versions of health care behind closed doors. What they will come out with is anybody's guess.

Sincerely,
[Senator Bill Stouffer](#)
R-Napton

For confirmation, contact:
Aaron Baker – (573)751-1507
