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August 12, 2010

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## **The Stouffer Report: *Sending a Message to Washington***

For more than a year, folks all over the country have been telling their federal elected officials exactly what they think of the irresponsible agenda coming from Washington, D.C. The liberals in our nation's capitol refused to listen when they rammed so-called health care "reform" down our throats, but they are listening now.

The first voters in the nation to go to the polls and reject the reckless federal health care takeover were in Missouri. Nearly three-quarters of folks in this state — 71 percent — supported Proposition C and the effort to protect their right to make their own health insurance choices. The message was clear: stay out of citizens' health care decisions.

It is time to repeal the new federal health care law and replace it with a sensible alternative that does not burden folks with unnecessary mandates and high costs.

Proposition C passed in 114 of 116 election jurisdictions, including every county in the state, and received more than 668,000 affirmative votes. This was a bi-partisan message to Washington, with voters of every political stripe saying "no" to federally mandated health care.

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Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., the White House completely dismissed Missouri's vote, saying the results mean nothing. The [Wall Street Journal](#) reported Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid not only passed off the election results, but went a step further by saying Missouri voters were not educated enough to understand the federal health care law.

This type of tone deaf and arrogant reaction is precisely why so many folks are fed up with politicians in Washington, D.C. How many of those who voted for the new health care law admitted they did not read the bill or claimed they did not have time to read it? Yet, when their constituents asked questions, they were told to be quiet and let their elected officials handle these decisions.

Other states are following Missouri's lead, either through legislative action or with ballot questions. The protests stirred up by Washington's utter arrogance will continue until bureaucrats finally learn they do not control every thought and action of every person in this country. One of these days, the folks in our nation's capitol will remember they are not in charge. It is the hard-working men and women throughout this country who pay their salaries, and we are fed up with being ignored and being told we are not smart enough to understand what it is they do.

*Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.*

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