

The MceZ Core Principle for August is INTEGRITY !

On July 6, 2017, Walter Schaub, Director of the Office of Governmental Ethics, submitted his letter of resignation to President Trump stating that public service employees are required to put public trust and loyalty to the Constitution and ethical principles above private gain. It is reported by npr that during the six months between October 2008 and March 2009, as the Obama presidency was taking shape, it got 733 public contacts, such as calls, letters and emails. During the October 2016 to March 2017 period in the Trump era, it was swamped with 39,105 contacts — an increase of 5,235 percent between October, 2008.

Open Letter

Dear Senator Franken:

Thank you for your response of June 29 to my letter of June 19, 2017. This document will be published in MceZupedia. If you care to respond to my letter at a later date, please do so and it will be added to the published document. As you already know, this is too important to be a partisan bill. A well written healthcare bill requires a minimum of one year of public hearings and debate including discussion of a single-payer national healthcare system, Committee review and multi-partisan input. I look forward to hearing from you and contacting you in the future.

Best regards,

Doris Hale
Policy and Disclaimer Statement
www.MceZ.org

June 29, 2017

Dear Doris,

Thank you for contacting me about the recent proposals to repeal the Affordable Care Act. I appreciate hearing from you about this proposed legislation.

One of my top priorities as Senator is to help make sure that every Minnesotan has high quality, affordable health care. Unfortunately, the Republican health bill would do the opposite. Senate Republican leaders went to great lengths to work on this terrible health bill in secret-even keeping it from other Senators in their own party-and now we know the reason why. This bill is unpalatable and indefensible. It would result in 22 million more people being uninsured, undermine critical nationwide protections for people with pre-existing conditions, drive up costs for seniors, put rural hospitals and nursing facilities at-risk of closure, and end Medicaid as we know it. This bill would hurt Minnesota families, children, seniors, and people with disabilities in order to give a massive tax break to the very richest Americans. And while I'm glad that Senate Republicans have delayed the vote on their health plan, this isn't cause for celebration. This bill, which has been misguided from the start, needs be thrown out altogether.

I urge Americans to keep speaking out and keep telling your stories. They matter. And I have called on my Republican colleagues to do what we should have been doing all along-working together to address the real problems people are facing, like the skyrocketing costs of prescriptions drugs or lack of competition on the insurance exchanges. We can and should build on the Affordable Care Act and fix what needs fixing in a bipartisan way. The American people are counting on it.

One improvement we could make would be a public option to increase competition and cut premium costs. In January 2017, I helped introduce the CHOICE Act, which would create a public option subject to all the same requirements that apply to other plans offered on Obamacare exchanges. It would offer the same premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions available to individual marketplace consumers. This policy is similar to one introduced by Governor Dayton to allow Minnesotans to buy into Minnesota Care.

I'm also fighting to bring down costs for families by lowering the price of prescription drugs. I recently introduced a comprehensive bill on the subject, the Improving Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs Act, which would tackle prescription drug costs by increasing transparency and accountability, boosting access and affordability of key drugs, spurring innovation, and increasing choice and competition. This bill would help ensure that drug companies put patients before profits and bring some much-needed relief to families and seniors, including many who have had to make the impossible choice between paying for a life-saving drug and putting food on the table.

I remain committed to fighting for affordable and accessible health care for all Americans, which is why I will oppose the Republican health bill. Thank you again for contacting me, and please don't hesitate to do so in the future regarding this or any other matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,

Al Franken
United States Senator

The MceZ Core Principle for June is FREEDOM!

Open Letter

June 19, 2017

Subject: Thirteen White Male Republican Senators and the Secret Health Care Bill they are afraid to share with the American people.

Dear Senator Franken:

Thank you for your service.

The headlines are screaming about the secret GOP Health Care Bill that 13 White Male Republican Senators have written in private because Republican Senators are afraid of backlash from a diverse population who will have to live with or barely survive the consequences. The attitude appears to be "We the People" being viewed as "You the Enemy" rather than as taxpaying citizens concerned for their and their family's well-being, for whom these senators work and from whom they receive their salaries. The Senators working on the Senate health care bill are: McConnell (Kentucky), Hatch (Utah), Alexander (Tennessee), Enzi (Wyoming), Thune (South Dakota), Cruz (Texas), Lee (Utah), Cotton (Arkansas), Gardner (Colorado), Barrasso (Wyoming), Cornyn (Texas) and Portman (Ohio). .

This behavior could be considered as arrogant, cowardly, undemocratic and unethical.

My question to you as a Democratic Senator is: With what in the above paragraph do you disagree as you contemplate voting "yes" or "no" for this secret health care bill?

I look forward to hearing from you soon. I will contact you again if I have not received a response. Thank you.

Best regards,

Doris Hale
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