

Health Care is Not the Key

President Obama's speech to a joint-session of Congress about his Health Care reform caused more questions to arise and more controversy than he began with.

He claims that Health Care is central to overcoming the economic crisis, which is partly true. But Health Care should only be a minor focus, not the primary. Republicans and Democrats alike are very wary of this reform and Obama was trying desperately to appeal to both parties.

Obama was very focused on the ideal that affordable health care will allow more people to attain jobs. If companies can afford the health insurance for their employees then they can pay them more. Middle class, and those on welfare have much to gain in this reform, according to Obama.

The Health Care issue should focus more on malpractice laws and coverage than it should on a public health care. Making it illegal to drop or lower coverage due to illness or preexisting conditions would make a considerable difference.

Dr. Tim Johnson believes that what should be done within the health care reform is not simply providing more coverage, but needs to focus on what is affordable and useful. Covering more people is only good in theory if the services provided are not needed.

With his public option plan people who couldn't afford private insurance companies would be able to take part in a Government run plan. This seems good at first, but then he goes on to explain that all Americans would be required to have health insurance.

If an individual wishes to go without coverage, it should be their freedom to choose. And as for Obama believing that it's irresponsible, and that other people would have to pay for their bills in the long run, this is absurd. If someone decides they don't want to be covered, then let them pay out of pocket if they hurt themselves or get sick.

There is a "hardship waiver" for those who cannot afford health insurance, but who's to decide what "hardship" is? And most of the people that would claim "hardship" are already having their health care paid for by the rest of America.

Obama did insist that the Government Health Care would not remove the private companies, but would instead provide competition that would cause prices to go down. He also promised that the cost for this program would not add to America's debt deficit.

Obama's attempt to unite a bi-partisan agreement was hindered by his snide remarks directed at Republicans. He repeatedly referred to their use of money as wasteful and repeatedly referred back to the Bush administration. If he wanted to show where problems in the past were then he should have gone further back than eight years.

Ultimately Health Care Reform is a good idea and a place to start, but it's not the be-all end-all. He needs to broaden the scope and quit wasting time on one facet of recovery. Rising federal taxes during a time when jobs are hard to come by is a problem that should also be addressed. If you keep taxing people when they can't even get jobs seems more detrimental than lack of health care coverage. So let's keep the health care working, and get onto something more constructive.