

## **America vs. Health Care**

Could someone tell me exactly why health care reform is causing such a rift at town-hall meetings across the U.S.?

When I first saw the rambunctiousness on CNN, I was waiting for someone to yell, "Get your salmon, trout and tilapia right here!" I thought it was a scene from a local fish market and I wondered whether the recession had gotten so bad that people are now forced to fight over food.

If folks are *that* worked-up about health care, they should simply form an activist group and lead a campaign to Capitol Hill. One man's plea will never be heard in a room filled with litigious advocates.

Even the Democrats are in a divisive heat over health care reform. Blue Dog Democrats are furious about a public option for health care. They believe it's the first step toward a government takeover of health care. And, with President Obama hinting a renege on the public health option, it doesn't make things any better for those who are in support of it.

Verbal battles will not bring a solution to health care. In fact, it will only cause it to remain the same. A proposal + too many naysayers = nothing.

In 1993, the Clinton Administration proposed a health care package closely associated with then First Lady, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Its goal was to provide universal health care for all Americans. The plan was to enforce a mandate for employers to provide health insurance to all of their employees using competitive but regulated health care organizations. Democrats failed to unite over the plan and created competing plans of their own. As a result, the final bill was declared dead.

If history does repeat itself, we probably don't need a soothsayer to tell us the fate of Obama's health care reform plan. Sadly, millions of Americans are literally dying because they cannot afford health care. Millions are praying for affordable health care and millions are hoping they don't get sick because they don't have health care.

Perhaps Congress has not yet figured out that together we're fighting, dying, praying and hoping for a solution to health care. We need just one. One that works!

*Copyright © 2009 Denrique Preudhomme*