

## Obama upstaged by a blast heard around the nation

*No...It wasn't South Carolina's Congressman Joe Wilson.*

The President received a standing ovation when he stated, "As soon as I sign this bill, it will be against the law for insurance companies to drop your coverage when you get sick or water it down when you need it the most."

Last night's Presidential Address was minutely upstaged by a Southern congressman with a bent sense of vehemence...an individual who gregariously attempted to disrupt the President's speech with, "You lie!" Rather than dedicating an entire segment on the



congressman's impolite behavior, the focus swings to the powerful "blast" that came forth from the President himself (on the critical nature of health care reform): "I am not the first President to take up this cause, but I am determined to be the last," the President announced to the Joint Session of Congress; "We are the only democracy -- the only advanced democracy on Earth -- the only wealthy nation -- that allows such hardship for millions of its people. There are now more than 30 million American citizens who cannot get coverage. In just a two-year period, one in every three Americans goes without health care coverage at some point. And every day, 14,000 Americans lose their coverage. In other words, it can happen to anyone."

### ***The Hard Facts***

In truth, President Obama addressed one of the root causes to the severe economic environment in which we presently live. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, one in six American citizens covered by employer-sponsored insurance in 2006 had lost this coverage by 2008. But the President's blast to the American citizens didn't just emphasize the dire need of health care reform in the United States, Obama went onto dispelling the common misconceptions and fear tactics that have been tossed into the public arena. For starters, on the notion that consumers would be forced to change their current health insurance plans, Obama stated: "Nothing in our plan requires you to change what you have. What this plan will do is make the insurance you have work better for you." Furthermore, FactCheck.org discerned some other falsehoods, which a number of conservative representatives like Republican House Minority Leader, John Boehner have been making; even *after* Wednesday night's speech, including claims that Medicare benefits will be slashed - this statement is outright false. Additionally, AARP (the nonprofit, nonpartisan

membership organization for people age 50 and over) lists an entire page of myths vs. facts; including the fact that no health care reform proposals being considered by Congress would cut Medicare benefits or increase out-of-pocket Medicare services' costs; elaborating further that health care reform would protect seniors' access to their doctors, even reducing costs of preventive services. President Obama also stated, "There are also those who claim that our reform efforts would insure illegal immigrants. This, too, is false. The reforms I'm proposing would not apply to those who are here illegally" -- dismissing yet another falsehood that has been opportunistically circulated in the media by right-wing political pundits.

With American concerns growing on both left and right fields of the aisle, it is understandable that emotions and anticipations were riding high during the President's address to the American people and the Joint Session of Congress; however, with the political bias stacked against him, President Obama pulled off a finesse home run by calling out the ideological falsities and myths on health care reform. He gave a strong speech, which garnered the fight of the "Lion" himself, Edward "Ted" Kennedy. Yes, a blast was heard around the nation, but for this one time, it was positively charged with the words of a wise and strong man who came to be the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama: *"We did not come to fear the future. We came here to shape it."*

For more info:

[The White House - Press Office - Remarks by the President to a Joint Session of Congress on Health Care](#)

[Insurance Insecurity: Families are Losing Employer-Sponsored Insurance Coverage](#)

[Joe Wilson shout to Obama during Speech: 'You lie' - CNN.com](#)

[CNN Truth Squad: Will health bill pay for illegal immigrants? An update](#)

[Seven Falsehoods about Health Care - FactCheck.org](#)

[AARP - Health Action Now! Myths vs. Facts](#)

**By CarolAnn Bailey-Lloyd**

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## **8 years post 9-11: what has become of our nation?**

Beau Friedlander of AirAmerica recently wrote a profound editorial on how South Carolina Congressman Joe Wilson stole the air waves and disgraced the Nation. In his commentary, Friedlander notes: *"Is this the beginning of a Jerry Springer*

*era on Capitol Hill?"* This question is not out of place; and certainly begs yet another question as to where this nation has arrived in these modern times. Have we, as a people, regressed to such a degree in our logic that drama and threats of violence have become the ruling faction in the hierarchy of society? **No.** There are, however some who still believe in the old ways of thinking. Outdated belief systems, ancient social values, dogmatic ideological views, and so-called morality codes that either don't apply anymore or have become a double-edged sword in today's political arena and are the prevailing force winds in the conservative right wing. *Is it limited only to the South?* Unfortunately, this misguided rationale has transcended the south and proliferated some Northern and Midwestern states as well. Some examples of these dogmatic ideologists include Minnesota (R) Congresswoman, Michelle Bachman, who stated, "We have to slit our wrists, be blood brothers" with regard to her anti-health care reform stance. Texas Governor Rick Perry participated in the notorious "Tea Parties" with the suggestion that "Texans might at some point get so fed up they would want to secede from the union..." Might I add that the Texas governor's response was in reaction to economic stimulus funding for the States.

In Oklahoma, Senator Steve Russell compared the President's school speech to "something you'd expect to see in North Korea or in Saddam Hussein's Iraq." *Oh, there's that buzzword again: "Hussein."* Which brings me to yet another issue: Since the presidential campaign began, the name "Hussein" had become deviantly associated with and targeted then (and even now) at President Barack Obama. Right wing political pundits like Rush Limbaugh referred to the President as a "half-minority" and went onto referring to him by Obama's birth name, "Barack *Hussein* Obama;" placing an emphasis on the name "Hussein" to create a mind-word association with the fallen Iraqi leader. (Really, it's a form of neurolinguistic programming NLP that many people in a position of authority or political power commonly facilitate to link certain buzz words or phrases to form a subliminal connection to shape public opinion of a person, place, thing, or idea.)

Notwithstanding the chicanery from the likes of these right-wing political pundits, a wave of erratic swells have blotted media headlines and news stories. Among the notorious groups of "birthers," "912ers," "Tenters," and other zealous antagonists, has arisen a crazed mentality from radical fundamentalists spewing hate-speak including Nazi slurs and praying for the death of the president. So *what have we become as a nation?*

Friedlander, drew with precision, an accurate depiction of what has happened in these last eight years, post 9-11. "9-11 added exponentially to the army of news addicts cable news had been amassing since its inception two decades earlier," writes Friedlander. Indeed. And this, my friends, has become the main source of the ego maniacal factions that continually arise from the ashes of 9-11. It is a sensationalism of drama, and as Friedlander remarked, it is the "what" that holds the interactive public in suspenseful bliss. In essence, we have reverted to a state of idiocracy. To the progressive chagrin, every thing that we have fought for throughout the last century including the integral civil rights and equal rights has become starkly overshadowed by a warped sense of fear encapsulated by a few

non-leaders, who've twisted the American union into a divided nation of hatred and bigotry, with a lust for blood...literally.

*Where is that sense of oneness...unity that we all shared on 9-11?* It was not just in America either. In fact, the whole world wept with us, prayed with us. For one day, almost every person in the world stood alongside us to rally support for this broken-hearted and shell-shocked country. For one day, the earth stood still. We were brothers among brothers; sisters among sisters. There was no black, no white, no Hispanic, no liberal, no conservative, no old, no young, no rich, no poor...*we were simply one America.* But something diabolical happened in between then and now. In retrospect, one would imagine that 9-11 would've been the turning point to create unity, not dissension. But alas, I digress.



We have, after all, overcome a major hurdle in American society by at least having the decency and civility to elect our first African-American President. That being said, we have reached a critical crossroad. We can choose to go one of two directions. Path A or B. Path A is the preferable route. It is the path that, as Robert Frost so eloquently spoke of, is less taken. It is that path, which we could and should be on at this pivotal moment in US history. This path is one, which will extol those who seek to build productive ways of living in these United States. It is also the path that will lead to stability, honor, respect, human decency, and yes -- even security. *Are we not our brother's keeper?* Have we forgotten these basic human values of integrity, dignity, compassion, and common sense? Then there's Path B. This is the path on which we have begun to tread. It isn't the audacity of hope that brought us to this fork. It is the divisiveness of a few, who have repeatedly used the tragedy of 9-11 to propagate fear and reservation of positive change.

While we should never forget our historical roots, we must bury them to move forward to the future. If we, as a nation, continue to dredge the roots of our unstable and violent past, we assuringly are doomed to regress to a nation of nothingness. The tragedy of 9-11 is not the tragedy in itself, *but the tragedy that has become us.* Today, in the wake of 9-11, become the light that transcends the ruins.

For more info:

- Fox News
- AirAmerica.com

- Huffington Post
- MSNBC.MSN
- Media Matters for America
- Alan Colms Liberaland

**By CarolAnn Bailey-Lloyd**  
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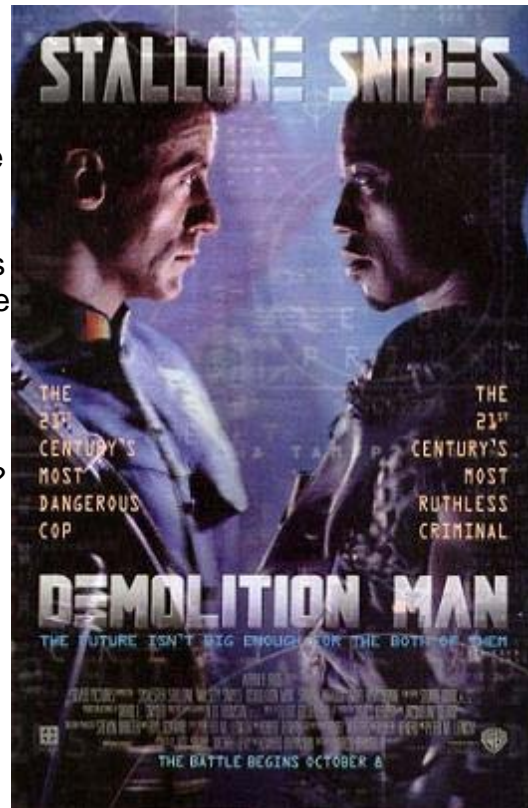
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## Dr. Raymond Cocteau: leader of the radical right wing?

***GOP: You have been charged one credit in violation of the morality code.***

So I stole a line from [Demolition Man](#) -- but this single line bares witness to the alternative reality that lies in store for this nation. *How so?* Allow me to bring you up to speed: In the 1993 pop culture film, Stallone plays falsely-condemned police officer, Sgt. John Spartan (aka. "Demolition Man"), brought back to a post-apocalyptic future from a frozen state of animation. Spartan's reinstatement to the modern-day police force is for the purpose of combating Dr. Raymond Cocteau's "menace to society." (If you haven't yet watched this action film, I highly recommend you do.) The arch-enemy in the film is not at all who it seems.

Long story short, Dr. Raymond Cocteau has shaped a hierarchical society where only the rich and citizen conformists (with mind-control implants, no less) are respected in "San Angeles," a modernized State of California. *What does Cocteau have to do with the leadership of the radical right wing?* Both in the film and in present-day society, there is an imaginary figure head, which controls the actions of the community. Based on Cocteau's visions of a "moral" society, the vast majority of the civilian above-ground population is white, wealthy, and "morally sound." The impoverished and homeless are forced into hiding below ground, where they fend for themselves in hellish living conditions.



The radical right wing does cause pause for concern because it is in essence, without formal leadership to reign in the lunacy of some of its more extremist followers. As most sociological analysts realize, lack of leadership creates a vacuous and dire situation. Assumed leadership of the radical right wing has become animosity propagates, [Lou Dobbs](#), Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh, who consistently facilitate tactics of fear (and racism) to manifest power in their base. In one statement, [Beck](#) claims that the President is a racist; which has caused his news network to lose several sponsors. Despite his political inequities, Beck has become more empowered by his base...martyr-type adulation. Limbaugh, on the other hand, doesn't just attack Obama's political policies, he attacks him on more personal levels up to and including questioning the legitimacy of his presidency, and stating outright, "[I hope Obama fails.](#)" It is this type of vacuous leadership that has been controlling the radical right wing. The congressional and legislative GOP have failed on all levels to distinguish their leadership authority from the likes of such political pundits, who's only pleasure has seemingly been to create discourse and disruption in American lives. They have become the Dr. Raymond Cocteau of the right wing by enabling a few to stir human emotion so effectively to the point of violence that they themselves have lost track of what society is and needs.

The Cocteau vision of morality is basically the same ideology prescribed to by those seeking the implied perfect race. It's not so far-fetched here either, because according to a report written by the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) with regard to budding militia groups and anti-government sentiment in the United States, "All it's lacking is a spark. I think it's only a matter of time before you see threats and violence." The reality is that in a Cocteau-type society, it is almost guaranteed that a revolution will, at some point in time, occur.

This is where the lack of GOP leadership becomes a progressive issue. The morality code, rather, lack thereof -- has created a volatile environment of politically-punditry driven movements without genuine causes. The end results are the satirical tea baggers, among other movements without thoughtful and meaningful logic. Remember, this began with the race to the presidency last year when McCain/Palin followers began chanting "drill, baby, drill" as the empirical motto. While the economy was tanking last summer, with the [US poverty rate hitting an 11-year high in 2008](#), the Los Angeles Times reported, "The drop in the median income was the biggest decline for the first year of a recession since World War II, said Lawrence Katz, a Harvard University economist, "We've basically seen a lost decade for typical American families."

*What happens when a profound leader steps up to pull the US economy from the brink of ruin; and the opposing party has lost its leadership credibility with the average working citizen? Desperation and idle mindsets lead individuals to imaginary pulpits. As Einstein wisely stated, "Great spirits have always found violent opposition from mediocrities. The latter cannot understand it when a man does not thoughtlessly submit to hereditary prejudices but honestly and courageously uses his intelligence."* This is whence the problem in American society has arisen today.

The GOP has enabled the Dr. Cocteau puppetry to rule their political agendas and the growing mindset of fear in this nation. They have inadvertently and ignorantly harmed the stability of their followers, and potentially activated the destructive fate of our country. This is not just a progressive matter and a GOP matter... more importantly; it's a critical matter of national security.

For more info:

- [Wikipedia: Demolition Man](#)
- [Southern Poverty Law Center: why I urged CNN to take Lou Dobbs off the air](#)
- [Alternet: is Glenn Beck finished?](#)
- [ThinkProgress: Limbaugh-Obama fail](#)
- [Southern Poverty Law Center: intelligence report](#)
- [Los Angeles Times](#)

**By CarolAnn Bailey-Lloyd**  
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## **Health care reform: who's really gaming the system?**

Throughout the past century, America has made great strides toward progress. She has seen man's first walk on the moon, but most critically, she has seen the equity and inequities of blood, sweat and tears of its countrymen and women. How do we, as a nation, repay her debt to the people who have fought so hard to establish a humane and civilized society -- where its citizens have prevailed the civil rights movement, the women's' rights movement, and the plight of blue collar workers everywhere? Instead of focusing on the vitality and longevity of its citizens, the reward becomes the Corporatocracy of big business, including welfare dollars to big health care insurance CEOs, who often earn well into the millions of dollars.

GOP Representative Tom Price presented a "*Republican health care reform alternative*," which was based on studies conducted by the Lewin Group. The Lewin Group, part of Ingenix, is not bipartisan and is wholly owned by

UnitedHealth Group -- one of the Nation's largest insurers. This particular group, according to a *Washington Post* report, "was accused by the New York attorney general and the American Medical Association, a physician's group, of helping insurers shift medical expenses to consumers by distributing skewed data." Subsequently, UnitedHealth Group's former CEO, [William W McGuire](#), earned roughly 125 million dollars in 2005. That boils down to over \$60,000 each hour based on a 40-hour work week. Wow! That's more income in a single hour than the average American worker earns in one year! To top it off, Congressman Price boasts on his website, "With Washington in control of the delivery of medicine, the quality of care for patients becomes secondary." *If that is in fact the case, Congressman, why do you openly advertise government-ran Medicare on the main page of your Website?*



### ***The stats***

According to the NCHC (National Coalition for Health Care), \$2.1 trillion was spent on health care in 2006. Of that cost, \$186 billion was associated to high administrative costs. In fact, employer-sponsored health care insurance costs have exploded by a whopping 119 percent over the last decade. As offered in a recent report by USA Today, the average cost of an employer-based family health care insurance policy is over \$13,000 in 2009 -- which increased by five percent since last year, alone. Furthermore, "10 of the country's largest publicly traded health insurance companies rose 428 percent" between the years 2000 and 2007; where consumers got less coverage but paid higher premiums.

A [report](#) conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that nearly 25 percent of the 45 million individuals uninsured in this nation are non-elderly middle class. The same report also found that most middle class citizens' rely on employee-based health care insurance coverage; but due to the [economic recession](#), even this life-staple "has been put in jeopardy."

### ***Who loses?***

The hard-working American people. Adding insult to injury, big insurance companies are literally lining their pockets from the distraught, sick and disabled in this country. Women's Health Weekly ran a [story](#) on the injustices of big insurance companies; including the fact that some major insurers have denied or canceled coverage to battered women in this nation. Making matters worse, in the second installment in the *Sick for Profit* series, big health insurance provider [CIGNA](#) blatantly lied to patients about health diagnosis. According to *Braveheart*

*New Films*, (creators of the second installment), a woman was sent home with bronchitis medicine and was told by the CIGNA director that there was nothing wrong with her; and was refused access to her medical records. The reason why CIGNA denied this woman her medical records, according to her doctor, was because CIGNA had known for years about her cancer diagnosis.

If that doesn't get your blood boiling, then take another look at the desperation of middle-class Americans, who are resorting to military re-enlistment to obtain health care benefits. One story, in particular, is very tragic. Meet American serviceman, Army Spc. Gregory James Missman. Missman, died after sustaining wounds from an IED (improvised explosive device) in Afghanistan earlier this July. Sadly, this 36-year old man was laid off from his job and had re-enlisted mainly to provide health care coverage for his young wife and son.

Furthermore, the American Journal of Medicine reported (in its [August 2009 issue](#)) that 62 percent of all bankruptcies in 2007 were medically related and were filed mostly by middle-class families.

*So...if the GOP, including "You Lie" [Joe Wilson](#), backs the alternative health care reform package presented by Price; and this package was based on studies conducted by the Lewin Group, then who exactly is the GOP supporting?*

For more info:

- Womens Healthy Weekly
- WebMD: Mad About Medicine: CEO Compensation: Who Said Health Care is in a Financial Crisis?
- WebMD: Some 43 Million Lack Health Insurance
- Washington Post
- United States Representative Tom Price
- NCHC - Facts about Healthcare - Health Insurance Costs
- Health insurance costs jump in '09 - USATODAY.com
- Health Care and the Middle Class: More Costs and Less Coverage - Kaiser Family Foundation
- Late 2000s recession - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
- AFL-CIO Now Blog - Health Insurance Profits Soar as Industry Mergers Create Near Monopoly
- Soldier Who Re-Enlisted for Health Care, Killed in Afghanistan (Video)

- Sick for Profit Blog
- American Journal of Medicine
- Republican Study Committee (RSC) - The Caucus of House Conservatives

**By CarolAnn Bailey-Lloyd**  
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## Dementias on the Brain



*Mark Sanford (Google Images)*

From the freewheeling, “going rogue” Sarah Palin; *you betcha!* — to the “slit our wrists” Congresswoman Michele Bachman, to the poetic love sonnets of Governor Mark Sanford, to the ramblings of Senator John Boehner with his “*I haven’t met anyone for public health care,*” to Texas Governor Perry’s wanton rants about secession and the recent cover up (of the execution of an innocent man), to Congressman Joe Wilson’s embarrassing outburst during the presidential address to congress, and let’s not forget Senator Demint’s support of the Honduran military coup (of the democratically-elected president) and his own comments about how openly-gay people and single mothers should not be allowed to teach in our public schools... makes one wonder how we, as a nation, have come to this point. *From where did these elected officials come? Mars?*

It is times like these when I often reflect on my own life and try to understand why some people in power use that power for unbelievable authoritarian ploys. Kind of reminds me of the times when I was much younger and my parents used to tell me, “*Because I said so.*” I remember thinking back then, “but why?” So here I am, in my adult life, attempting to make sense of out of all the nonsense I keep hearing, reading, and seeing across this nation. *When did this country become so dumbed down that we take every unscrupulous action and deed as the truth and ultimate reality of the here and now in this nation?* Even while we hear the words, read the lips, and internally are digesting the bitter bile of the mouth diarrhea (from these elected officials), some of us nod our heads in unison and somehow believe what they’re telling us. *How is this possible,* I wonder. How can relatively intelligent-thinking people become so willingly enslaved by the hate and nonsense propaganda spewed from these representatives? To make matters worse, these people have harnessed the power of rhetorical “news” talking heads (Beck, Limbaugh, Dobbs, etc.), who act as virtual mockingbirds that repeat and propagate every ounce of unethical, immoral behavior and so-called facts “as the way and the light” of life in these United States.

***Is it a mutating virus?*** If I were twittering right now, the above mentioned paragraph would be one of those “**OMG!**” moments, because it’s so incredibly unbelievable...*but you can’t make this stuff up*. The more you begin to see the layers peeled away from the rhetoric and nonsense, we begin to get a clearer and unabridged image of the emperor without his clothes. The nakedness and volatility of these radical pundits paints a rough and distasteful picture of the darker side of American society. Suddenly, we begin to see the lack of civility, compassion, and rationality in these United States of America. Ironically, it’s not just some of the talking heads and political officials who’ve taken these public stances, it’s infected members of clergy (i.e. Pastor Steven Anderson of Arizona), and unfortunately, the average American citizen.

***Who are these people?*** If you’d told me 15 years ago that there’d be a conservative right-wing group re-writing the bible to suit their needs by removing so-called “liberal passages”, that there would be religious leaders praying for the death of our president, that US Congressmen would be committing open treason against this Nation, that American citizens would be marching in the streets and at town halls across the country yelling Nazi slurs and secession rants, armed with semi-automatic weapons, that an innocent US census worker would be found murdered with the word “FED” scrawled on his chest — all the while having representatives like Eric Cantor preaching the woes of the public option and how cancer-plagued patients can apply for charity; and watching conservative right-wing groups gregariously applauding the loss of prospects for the US Olympics coming to Chicago (and to the US), I would’ve rolled my eyes and said, “*Not in a million years...*” But here we are today. We barely coexist in an extremely divided Nation. And the saddest part of it all is that the only thing that comes close to this crazy, alternative reality is the film, [Idiocracy](#), where “In modern society, natural selection has become indifferent toward intelligence, so that in a society in which intelligence is systematically debased, stupid people easily out-breed the intelligent, creating, over the course of five centuries, an irredeemably dysfunctional society.” *Are we at that point yet? No, but we’re headed that way.*

We cannot, as a nation, be so sadistically twisted that we allow our US Representatives to undermine the POTUS and betray the United States with open treason. *Are we mute, deaf, dumb, and blind?* No. There still are, I hope, a majority of sane and sound citizens who want to make this nation a productive, positive place in which to live...but I digress.



President Abraham Lincoln so rightfully said, “***A house divided against itself cannot stand.***” Today, that statement is truer than ever before. How long must we sustain the brute force mentality and ideology of the right wing fanatics? Even more, how long until this country crumbles like a deck of cards because we have allowed this lunacy to fester as long as it already has? I hope and pray that we have not yet crossed that threshold beyond the point of no return. But have we done so, I stand on the side of humanity, compassion, freedom, and equality of all people. There cannot exist a shadow government within the Federal government; and if so be done, Lincoln’s profound words will eventually become the call to action for peace makers in this nation once again.

*Thoughts to ponder...*

**By CarolAnn Bailey-Lloyd**

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## **Paradigm Shift in the 21st Century: A Zombie Nation?**

***Have we (humankind) become the complex society of “Winkin’, Blinkin’ and Nod”?***



It’s sometimes difficult to believe events, even as they unfold before our eyes; but *seeing is believing*.

The truth of the matter is that as I write this article, I know I’m most certainly going to be “*preaching to the proverbial choir*” but at the same time I feel it obligatory to inform those who

might lend an ear to listen, an eye to see, or a heart to feel.

### **What is Paradigm Shift?**

In an earlier piece, I explained that “a Paradigm Shift is when a significant change happens – usually from one fundamental view to a different view. In most cases, some type of major discontinuity occurs as well.” Allow me to elaborate a bit further... this type of sociological phenomenon takes place so that human

beings – rather, humankind, can grow...transform itself on various levels including psychologically, philosophically, sexually, and spiritually.

As human beings, we are constantly evolving. The strangest thing, however, is that in the current paradigm shift, I'm seeing three sides evolving simultaneously. The evolution of these sides regards major levels of perception. I'll attribute the modern paralleling paradigm shifts to psychological determinism, theological determinism, and biological determinism. To fully understand the beast of the core behavior of these fundamentally-different concepts, I'll begin with the definition of the three and the umbrella under which they rest their theoretical roots.

### **Biological Determinism**

"Biological determinism" is a term, which by definition, implies that behavior, belief systems, and wants are predetermined by genetics. More recently, some studies demonstrate that there are neurological differences in those individuals who are politically hard-wired, so to speak. So, in essence, those that fall into this category may be "biologically predisposed" to following or prescribing to a certain creed or set of principles.

### **Psychological Determinism**

"Psychological determinism" is a bit trickier because it is comprised of two defining characteristics. One is "orectic psychological determinism," which theoretically compels individuals to act in accordance with their strongest desires. The second is based on reasoning; referred to as "rational psychological determinism." This theory, in my opinion, is closely relative to emotional intelligence; which could be humanity's saving grace as it is associated with the flight or fight response mechanisms that are innately hard-wired into most thinking people.

### **Theological Determinism**

Then we have "theological determinism," which holds onto the belief that a God predestines everything that humans do in life. It is wise to note also, that theological determinism crosses all cultural and ethnic expanses. Case in point brings us to religious zealots, who would be willing to sacrifice their own lives because a "god" has prophesized coming events; therefore empowering an individual to carry out actions based on a "higher power" – opposed to law of the land.

### **Oh what a butterfly can do...**

Now that we have the abovementioned out of the way, we can move onto the "umbrella" that covers these and other forms of "determinism." This brings us to the "butterfly effect." The butterfly effect finds its theoretical beginnings in the chaos theory, but the suggestion here is that the flapping of one butterfly's wings could change the ultimate destiny or end results of atmospheric conditions in another part of the world; thus, creating a ripple effect in terms of modifying the

original course of intended events. *Have I lost you yet?* **Let's move onto the next part...**

*Remember earlier when I asked "have we become the complex society of Winkin', Blinkin' and Nod?"* There are three simultaneous paradigm shifts occurring at this precise moment – *are you paying attention?* I'm going to refer to the theories of determinism and the butterfly effect to perhaps enable you to transcend this time transition relatively pain free...*if you're willing to do so.*

### **Winkin', Blinkin', and Nod**

Winkin' is part of the paradigm shift. Metaphorically speaking, Winkin' is the individual who's half conscious and tries to see the world optimistically. Blinkin' is the individual who's half conscious but sees the world more pessimistically. (You know...kind of like seeing the glass half-empty or half-full) Then there's Nod. Nod is a strange creature of habit because he's spent most of his life asleep. He goes with the flow and really doesn't notice much of anything because he's too busy sleeping his consciousness away. Let me know if I've lost you yet... Now, what do these nursery rhyme characters have to do with the butterfly effect, theories of determinism, and paradigm shift? That's easy. Each of these characters hold attributes relative to varieties of determinism and how modern culture and civilization is being driven into a zombie nation.

If in fact, we were all fully conscious, we would be fairly close to perfection. Meaning that by being fully conscious, our "awakened" minds would be symmetrical with the consciousness of Jesus, Buddha, or Mohammad (whichever the case may be). Now that that's out of the way, we can begin to understand...or attempt to comprehend the mindsets of these groups in this nation alone.

The Winkin' groups are driven by rational psychological and biological determinism. The Blinkin' groups are those, who are compelled by either orrectic psychological determinism or theological determinism, or both. The Nod group is defined by orrectic psychological determinism. Since the turn of the century, these three groups have evolved to form three concurrent paradigm shifts. *How?* If you've been paying attention to the news lately, you've seen how there are factions of citizens, who enact hostilities in lieu of current events. This anger is driven by the power of suggestion by persons in authority; because there is no authentic reasoning for the violent threats that are being exhibited by some in the Blinkin' group. Then we have the Winkin' group. The Winkin' group is attempting to create an ideal, socialized form of society based on rational psychological determinism. Sadly, the Nod group is the silent voice of society as they are inclined to more inclusive thought processes – comprised of current relationships, sex, career, home life, and entertainment. In other words, they're the typical people who will say something like, "ugh...I don't get into politics or that other stuff. It doesn't affect me."

**Which one are you?**

At some point or another in our lives, we may exhibit one or all of the aforementioned characteristics. Depending on the environmental determinism (yeah – that’s another theory) of our evolutionary life cycle, is what sometimes yields our predisposition to being a Winkin’, Blinkin’, or Nod.

When individuals truly rationalize current events, they find greater resolve and understanding in how to best meet the needs of socioeconomic conditions. The flight or fight response is an important factor too, in determining which character best meets with our own psychological identities. Fear is part of that equation. More individuals have committed aggressive acts based on the premises of fear. When we fear something – whether it is an idea, a person, place, or thing – we tend to become more judgmental, hypercritical and prone to violence...even when an act of offense becomes an act of defense *in the minds* of those who are afraid, insecure, or paranoid (and sometimes delusional). This type of behavior is often exhibited in the Blinkin’ group. Because theological determinism plays a critical role in placing fear in the hearts and minds of its subscribers, it often ends with lethal and negative results.

The Winkin’ group on the other hand, is also very zealous in their ideologies. Their beliefs are based on rationalizations and the flight response mechanism. They’re not natural-born fighters, but they are survivors. They understand how to promote a positive sociological condition, but often retreat when faced with threats of violence.

The Nod group wants nothing to do with either of these groups because s/he doesn’t want to get “involved.” Do you know to which one of these groups you belong? Who cares? (Must be the Nod in you...)I care. I care because the paradigm shifts I am seeing are going to come to a sociological clash. Society is peaking on many different levels. When a person or organization of power preys on the weak and needy minds of those in the Blinkin’ group, it inadvertently creates a negative butterfly effect both here in this country and around the world.

## **Conclusion**

When a young girl can be held captive for 18 years and go unnoticed by society...when groups of radicals can walk upon American streets with guns strapped to their bodies...when clergy prays for death of our leaders...when people start caring more about war and money and less about their neighbors’ well being...when the stock market is more important than the farmer’s market...when average citizens exhibit a blood lust...we’ve reached a dangerous pinnacle in this transition of time. Which way will the tide turn? It all depends on the butterfly effect and if we’re willing to accept the responsibility that we are our brother’s keeper...and whether we fight or fly away to live another day. **The choice is yours to whether or not we live in a zombie nation...and those are the paradigm shifts which we are now facing.**

***Paradigm Shift in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Zombie Nation?***

**By CarolAnn Bailey-Lloyd**

## Picking the Radical Brain: Sorting Facts from Fiction in the Health Care Reform Debate

*Where to begin...* I never imagined I'd come to a point in my life where I'd be at an utter loss for words. However, after last night's town hall meeting on health care reform, I am thoroughly stumped. The atmosphere was indescribable. With the drone-driven apathy, apparent in the conversations among the crowded cafeteria, I actually came away from the meeting with the feeling that some alien life form had sucked out my vital force. *Why?* I live in a predominantly "regressive" State. Not saying anything is wrong with the



overall population; just that there are a quite a few extremists that I observed and overheard last night.

Among the crowd were 912ers, "birthers," anti-abortionists, Armageddon catalysts, and those who were dedicated to making South Carolina a "sovereign State." *Unfortunately, we have some of those "palin-thinkers" here as well.* There were some individuals, who sat quietly, listening to Congressman Wilson as he told the rumor-hungry mob how the new bill would potentially include death panels, abortions, health care for (God forbid) illegal immigrants, and other underhanded attempts by Wilson to conjure graphic images of a "Trojan horse" government plan predestined to take over your lives and mine. Of course other implications were made, most of which prove untruthful and are comprised of extremist pipe dreams.

The sad part (and yes, following is an oxymoron) is not so much in the deceitfulness of an otherwise commendable man (who served in the US Armed Forces) but the deceitfulness and character of some...rather many, of the "debate" spectators. First impressions were quite misleading, as I quickly learned. In fact, seemingly intelligent, educated people were buying into utter mistruths to feed their dogmatic ideologies that they were following. Whether abortion coverage or the severe tax-payer cost, which Wilson implied would

happen, people were all too eager to jump on the bottomless pit of lies. I believe, in fact, had Congressman Wilson implied that the world was flat (based of course on 'non-partisan' studies conducted by flat-earth map makers) that the crowd would've believed it. But that's still not the saddest part...

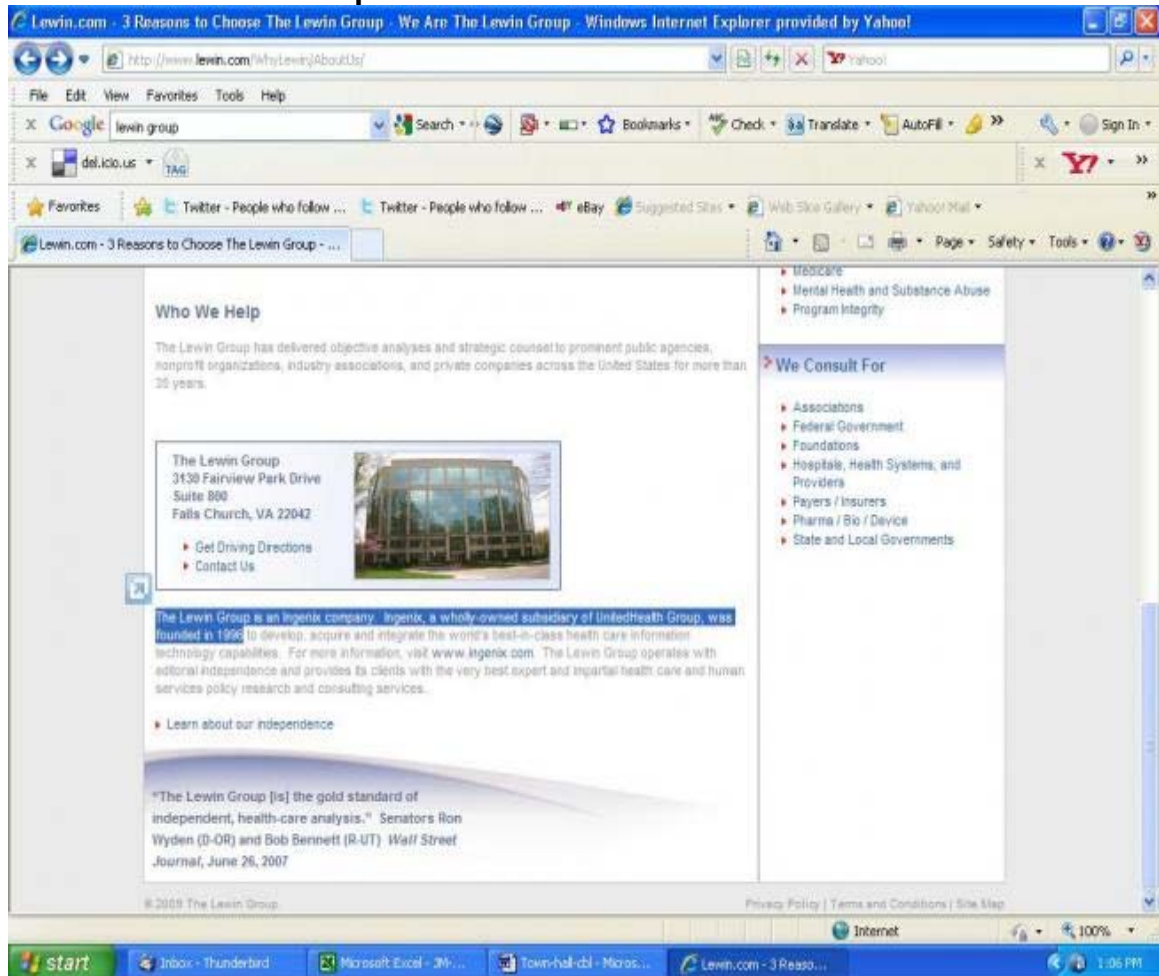
The saddest part of the town hall meeting on health care reform in South Carolina wasn't the underhandedness, the lies, or the genuinely misguided ideologies of the mob-rule; it was the disingenuous people that were in the group who spoke amongst themselves. I became nauseated from the vile and contentious dialogue that I overheard. There was heated discussion about the "degenerates," the "indigent," and the "illegals." Presumably, these individuals have never fallen upon hard times, nor would they comprehend the meaning of being impoverished, or so desperate that they would flee their country to make a better life in another.

There was also a lot of talk about "torte reform." Rollbacks on the earned income credit on the poor to pay for health care. But the point that was missed in all of the disinformation and communication breakdown was that in the end, the whole purpose of a public option in health care is not just for the "indigent" and "degenerates" (as one individual mentioned) it's for the hardworking folks who fall between the cracks – the ones who earn too much for Medicaid, but not enough to pay for health care insurance; the ones who are suffering from long-term illnesses or disorders (commonly referred to by corporate insurance giants as "pre-existing" conditions), and for those of us who have lost jobs and can't by any standard of living, meet our expenses. Suddenly, the zealous crusaders of independent ideologies can no longer distinguish the moral decision between right and wrong. Clouded in a delusion of ideologies and mistruths has created a vacuum of politically-driven but violent groups with a blood lust for...? **Fill in the blank.** Most of these agitated citizens have become the mob-rule. *Let's not confuse this with "majority-rule."* Intimidation tactics, including the gun-toting radicals showing up at presidential town halls, or individuals yelling profanities and defamatory comments at public officials and ordinary citizens; and fear and hate mongering...all boils down to one thing: the inability to communicate...rather, the ability to communicate disinformation.

### **Here are the RAW facts:**

The study (and notoriously GOP-distributed "fact sheet") so commonly referred to and facilitated by GOP leaders for the "health care reform alternative" was conducted by the "Lewin Group." If we follow the paper trail, the Lewin Group is part of the Heritage Foundation – conservative think tank (which is NOT bipartisan). Furthermore, *"The Lewin Group is an Ingenix company. Ingenix, (is) a wholly-owned subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group..."* Make no mistake – **UnitedHealth Group is one of the largest insurers in this nation.** Hypothetically speaking, **would you trust a cardiologist *who at the same time***

**sold human hearts for profit? Think about it. This is a direct conflict of interest.**



**There are NO death panels (Sec 1233) and NO illegal immigrant coverage (Sec 246) as implied by some.**

- Over 46 million Americans have no medical coverage at all; millions more are under-insured or fear losing coverage. If we continue on our current path health care costs will continue to soar and within the next decade one out of every five dollars will be spent on health care.
- Your choice of doctors and plans will be protected; those that are happy with their current coverage can keep it or choose a new plan – including a public option.
- Additionally, everyone will benefit from eight protections that will ensure stability and security for families across the country.
- Coverage Regardless of Pre-Existing Conditions – Insurance companies will be prohibited from refusing coverage because of medical history.

- An End to Exorbitant Out-of-Pocket Expenses, Deductible and Co-Pays – Insurance companies will have to abide by yearly caps on how much they can charge for out-of-pocket expenses.
- Full Coverage for Preventive Care – Insurance companies must fully cover – without charge – regular checkups and tests that help prevent illness, including mammograms or eye and foot exams for diabetics.
- No Dropped Coverage for the Seriously Ill – Insurance companies will be prohibited from dropping or lessening coverage for people who become seriously ill.
- No Gender Discrimination – Insurance companies will be prohibited from charging people more because of their gender.
- No Annual or Lifetime Caps on Coverage – Insurance companies will be prevented from placing annual or lifetime caps on the coverage people receive.
- Extended Coverage for Young Adults – Children will be eligible for family coverage through the age of 26.
- Guaranteed Insurance Renewal
- Insurance companies will be required to renew a policy as long as the policyholder pays their premium in full.
- Insurance companies won't be allowed to refuse renewal if someone becomes sick.

*“This isn't about politics. This is about people's lives. This is about people's businesses. This is about our future.” – President Barack Obama*

Sources:

- **Lewin Group** - [lewin.com/WhyLewin/AboutUs/](http://lewin.com/WhyLewin/AboutUs/)
- **South Carolina Policy Council Fact Sheet ( 10 Reasons ObamaCare is Bad for Your Health and Your Pocketbook – [http://www.scpolicycouncil.com/research-and-publications-/fact-sheets/763--10-reasons-obamacare-is-bad-for-your-health-and-your-pocketbook])**
- **Library of Congress: HR3200 - America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009**
- **WhiteHouse.gov** (*Something worth forwarding*)

*Thoughts through the eyes of an independent constituent... CarolAnnB*

PS – don't take my opinion or words for it, I encourage you to READ the bill. If you can buy a car, maintain a household, run a business, guide your family or

work on a job, you should be able to read HR 3200, which is publicly displayed at the Library of Congress (see link above).

**More recommended reading:**

- Worse than terrorism: 680,000 Americans dead, all killed by other Americans by Jane Stillwater
- Health Care and Health Insurance: How it is and how it should really be

**By CarolAnn Bailey-Lloyd**

**Originally Published 08/21/09 (CarolAnnB – Insight, Philosophy, Social Media & more!)**

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## **Health Care and Health Care Insurance – How it is and how it should really be**

My father had just turned 59 years old shortly before his passing on October 19, 2005. But, two years prior to his death, he had gone to a civilian hospital for his scheduled quadruple bypass heart surgery. “It was vital to his survival,” were the thoughts of the cardiologist. At the time, my father had personal reservations about the surgery (who wouldn’t?) because there was a chance that the surgery would not be successful, or worse, that he would not make it through the surgery at all. His life was in dire straits, but luckily, he had government Tricare health care insurance benefits (from his 20-year attachment and subsequent retirement from the US Army) where he could at least acquire some form of health care services.

I remember always seeing jars perched atop counters at local shops, gas stations and other convenience stores with little notes attached, “Please donate for Mikey’s heart surgery,” or “Donate to help get Sharon kidney treatment.” Of course these were just minute observations I’d made. Sometimes I chipped in a buck or two, other times the jars were so many that they just didn’t make sense anymore. The jars still pop up every now and then. I couldn’t believe that so many people weren’t (and still aren’t) getting health care treatments simply because **a)** they don’t have or can’t afford health care insurance, or **b)** their health care insurance won’t pay for the treatments for whatever reason they deem valid, or **c)** they had health insurance but just didn’t earn enough money to meet the deductibles or co-pays. Sad, really when you think about it.



Getting back to my dad...at the time, the choice was clear. He either had the heart surgery or he would die. That was it. There were no other alternatives. My father didn't die from the surgery, but due to presumably inadequate hospital hygienic practices, he ultimately succumbed to a hospital-acquired infection commonly referred to as MRSA. I wouldn't have seen it coming in a million years. The surgery went off without a hitch. No red tape, no governmental bureaucracy or intervention to prevent his health care services...just a little bug that led a major and lethal march on my dad's physical demise. Luckily for him, his government-sponsored health care insurance enabled him to seek secondary health care treatments at an out-of-state heart center. His health care services there, I'm sure, sustained and extended my father's life by at least

another year. In the end, there was nothing any one could do to restore my father's physical body. The MRSA packed a fatal punch; by the time all was said and done, there was nothing – not even alternative medicine – could do to make my dad well again.

I remember, in his final months, weeks, days...how a hospice nurse came to my mother and father's home, checking on him. We all knew it was just a matter of time, and instead of trying to fight the outcome, we were resolved to accept the fate that had been dealt him. We involved my dad in his funeral arrangements; as morbid as that may seem. But just like any major life event, we felt that by tap-dancing around the subject and avoiding his thoughts and input on his end-of-life decision would've been selfish on our part. My dad picked out his own coffin, even tried to get a small chuckle out of me and my mom by mentioning the fact that he'd probably not be able to fit into the coffin by the time the funeral came. (My father, though skin and bones, had taken on a substantial amount of belly fluid and was bloated from water weight gain.) When my father passed away, after a grueling two years of in-and-out hospital stays, surgeries, medicine, needles, and numerous outpatient treatments and diagnostics, he was finally at rest. He crossed over in the wee hours of the morning, resting gently in his favorite recliner, with family all around him. I'll never forget that moment as long as I live.

So here I am today, recollecting my thoughts, experiences, and encounters with the medical community, health care insurance, and the senseless fight over these issues while people continue to struggle and die. This brings me to my own experiences. When I was injured on the job back in 2000, I was personally paying for health care insurance through my employer. It was expensive, but I had to have it. Little did I realize, and so I learned, that even having paid-for health care insurance, that my health care insurance would not (and didn't have to according to workers compensation laws) pay for my health care treatments. You mean to tell me that after years of paying for health care insurance that my

insurance provider did not have to pay for my health care treatment? No. It didn't and it wouldn't. I was forced to adhere to strict workers compensation insurance that decided whether or not I would receive a treatment, when I would receive it, and whether or not I'd get a weekly check from the compensation board depending on whether I'd taken the recommended dose of prescription drugs, invasive diagnostics, or otherwise.

In the end, I was tossed to the wayside with a small settlement that barely covered the expenses I had incurred while facing a life-altering physical dilemma that would still to this day, infringe upon my everyday living. I'm one of the fortunate ones, though. Even after numerous neurological exams, diagnostics, and professional advisement of how I "should get use to it" (a wheelchair), I arose from that chair and am thankfully able to walk. Call it a miracle, Divine intervention, or maybe just the fact that I'm supposed to serve a higher purpose or another special purpose here on earth, I don't know. What I do know is that time and time again, paid-for private health care insurance is tied into a strategic bureaucratic monopoly of elite investors and for-profit organizations, which really don't care about you, me, or anyone for that matter. Bottom line is if you've got private health care insurance, you have more to worry about than if you didn't at all.

In fact, for the times that I didn't have health care insurance (including now thanks to a recent financial loss) hospitals will still see you. The cost is higher, and if you can't pay, the existing costs are shifted to those who do pay for health



care insurance. Think of it this way: *Do you own car insurance?* Yes, you must in order to drive your car legally on the highways and byways. There's a clause in your insurance policy called, "underinsured motorist coverage." *Do you know for what that is?* That's the part of your car insurance that pays for ALL the drivers who get on the roads without car insurance. All in all, you're *already* paying the dime for the have-nots. But at least you're protected in the event that you get into a car crash and the other driver doesn't have insurance. *Right?* Imagine the price ticket of that medical bill? Speaking of which, do you really believe that your private health care insurance provider is going to pay for your car accident? Nope. Ever get those neat little questionnaires in the mail asking you multiple questions as to whether your health care event was caused by an accident? *Where? When? Etc.* If the accident was your fault, your car insurance is going to pick up the tab — whatever is left over will fall to your health care insurance provider. Your health care insurance then has the right to sue your private car insurance to reimburse its costs to pay for your health care. Guess what happens next? 1) Your car insurance is going to sky rocket. 2) Your health care insurance provider may raise your rates or even drop you. It gets better. If the other driver didn't have any car insurance, you're still going to foot the bill. One way or the other, someone is going to get waxed...*and I assure you, it's not the other guy and it's not your private health care insurance provider. This, by the way, is based on personal experiences.*

When my son broke his hand years ago, I received a letter in the mail from my health care insurance provider wanting to know whether or not my son had injured himself at work (Ha! He was a middle-school student.), or on “someone else’s property.” Strange thing is that you’re afraid to reply truthfully. What if he’d been injured on my porch steps? Would my home owner’s insurance have to pay for it? Or what if he’d been wrestling in a neighbor’s yard; would their home owner’s insurance have to pay for it? People often wonder why there are so many lawsuits and malpractice suits in the legal system. Most average citizens don’t involve themselves in drama or would choose not to get sucked into a major lawsuit; but the reality is that when insurance companies are constantly suing one another to get out of paying for providing health care to the individuals that have been paying them for years on end, what example is that setting?

In my opinion, the private health care insurance industry is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, they claim that they’ll take care of you. On the other hand, when it really counts, they turn a quick about-face to find another source of payment to cover your treatments.



So where does this leave us, the average citizens...*families*, who just want to do the right thing? I don’t have a simple answer to that question. I always thought I was doing the right thing by paying outrageous rates for health care insurance and learned that in the end, it’s all about who foots the final bill. Usually, it’s the people like us, who’ve done every thing in our power to protect ourselves. We’re the ones who are chucked to the coals.

*Is a public option the right idea?* I can’t really say. But I do know one thing. If we don’t try another avenue to help all people to get adequate health care at

an affordable cost, big insurance wins. They win on every level. They win the right to keep suing each other. They win the right to deny your care. They win the right to say that you don’t need end-of-life counseling. They win the right to make you cover the costs of everyone. They win the right to keep raising rates even when the economy is in such poor shape. They win. We lose.

**This is one public battle that should never have been waged against the people of America.** This is a fight for the American way and treating others as we would have done onto us. If I was a doctor or health care provider and I saw a sick child, a dying man, a lame woman, I couldn’t turn the cheek because the insurance company won’t pay for “specialized treatment.” As a human being, it is my priority to show compassion and humanity in the face of adversity. And that’s the way it should always be. Period.

*Just some thoughts...maybe we all need to read the health reform package before we toss it to the wayside.*

**By CarolAnn Bailey-Lloyd**

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## **Make Your Pitch Count, Mr. President**



***Mr. President, you're the pitcher in the game of life and death.*** Your team is depending on you to win this one for them. They've supported you through the little leagues all the way to the top where you are right now. You're atop the pitcher's mound. Your knees are brushed with clay and bruises from this long journey to the World Series. *A hush falls over the crowd.* You can hear a pin drop. Out of the blue, you can feel the sweat dotting your forehead. The spotlights are beaming down on you. The cameras are focused on your eyes, your stance; and just like everyone in the stands; the nation and your critics are anxiously waiting for you to make your pitch.

Right now, your team is in the lead by one point...but it's the bottom of the ninth inning. The bases are loaded. Two outs down. Last hitter's up and you've thrown three balls and two strikes. The pinch runner on third is trying to challenge you by stealing home. Your eyes are fixed on the umpire. You know what's at stake. So many people are counting on you. Suddenly, your team gives you the signals that you need to make your pitch. *Do you flinch? Do you hesitate?* Whatever you do, **don't drop the ball!**

The crowd becomes even more silent. Not even a whisper. But then... one fan, and another, and another begin to rise in the stadium. **"Yes, YOU CAN. Yes, YOU CAN. Yes, YOU CAN..."** comes the voice of the masses. Finally, you can feel the energy and the power of your fans. They're telling you what you can and need to do. You have the ability. You have the skills. You are the leader of your team. The third base pinch runner catches you off-guard, he's running fast. For a split second, you glance at your team and your fans. You can feel the weight of their hopes and dreams on your shoulders.

Now, you rear back your left arm and you throw the ball like you've never thrown it before – it's a real yellow hammer! But just like a slow-motion flick, your ball seems to float bit by bit through the air. The stadium watches in horrific anguish as the runner seems to be gaining forward motion to home plate. Your team is

bent on knees in silent prayer. Some in the crowd cover their eyes for fear of what they might see unravel.

As the runner slides into home plate, the crowds begin leaping up and down. Your team has now risen to their feet. The umpire yells, “**You’re OUT!**” *You’ve pulled it off. You’ve won the high stakes game of supporting your team, your crew, and more importantly, the thousands of fans who brought you to this place.* **Yes, Mr. President, YOU CAN. Win the Public Option for the millions of fans who depend on you to make this historical change to better the quality and affordability of healthcare for all. Yes, YOU CAN!**

**By CarolAnn Bailey-Lloyd**  
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