

House Voted-Health Care Reform Bill Passes

By Yolanda Candace

The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives led by Nancy Pelosi pushed Health Care Reform (HR 3962) through Saturday night, November 7th, 2009. "ObamaCare" is opposed by most senior organizations, Republicans and some Democrats. The Health Care Reform Bill proposes to "shave" 400 billion from Medicare over the next ten years. Our representatives overlooked the fact that Medicare is money our seniors have paid into the system. Basically the money belongs to our seniors, for their healthcare, once they turn 65 years of age. Opponents question the legality of taking money from Medicare without a vote of the people who paid into the system. Senior organizations like AMAC-Association of Mature American Citizens are concerned that the health care our seniors paid for during their lifetime, will not be available to them under this system. Additional funding for this trillion dollar program will be a variety of new taxes, including one that taxes individuals who make more than \$500,000 or families who make more than \$1 million.

The trillion dollar price tag is only one Republican complaint. House Republicans contested that "ObamaCare" is about taking a giant step toward a single-payer national health-care system or socialized medicine. Another concern is that the new administration has had limited success so far in the measures they have already implemented. So that taking on a huge health care program is questionable. House Republicans stated that Washington will ultimately decide the doctors one can see, the treatment one can have and decide (the moral issue), if one is worth the cost. Republicans tout that the private sector programs are much more efficient than government ones and they feel that is why the US currently has one of the best health care systems in the world. Most feel the need for healthcare reform, but question the quality of health care this bill would provide.

This bill now goes to the US Senate for debate, possible revisions and a vote. If you want your views to be heard on the issue, contact your Senators: Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. Contact numbers for Diane Feinstein are (202)224-3841 or (415) 393-0707 and the fax #'s are (415) 393-0710 and (202) 228-3954. Contact numbers for Barbara Boxer are (202) 224-3553 or (916) 448-2787 and the fax # is (202) 228-3868.

Many people have serious concerns about this Health Care Reform Bill. What are your concerns? Remember this is a representative government and there is still time for you to voice your concerns.

Yolanda Candace has a Masters Degree from UCLA and is a Registered Nurse who works as a Home Health Case Manager. For any questions, feel free to correspond with her at Yolanda@yahoo.com.