



August 23, 2016

Mr. Reince Priebus
Chairman of the Republican National Committee
310 First St. SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Following a long period of despondency, stemming from dismay at the direction of our country and disenchantment in our party's handling of the problems that have faced us, I have decided to respond to the multiple letters you sent asking me to renew my membership in the Republican National Committee.

If participating in the political process rested solely on civic duty, I may be tempted to abstain, feeling defeated and powerless. As a physician, however, it is a sense of moral obligation that compels me to appeal to the Republican Party to right the wrongs perpetrated on the people of America by the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

Obamacare was foisted on our country by the use of deceit, bribery and political trickery. The law was rejected by a decisive majority of Americans and Republicans vowed to repeal it. Sadly, their passionate proclamations simmered down to the feeble chant of: "repeal and replace", which translated into a series of ineffectual votes and never any resolve to defund even portions of the law.

The Republican Party stood silent as insurance premiums and co-payments soared, depriving many of needed care, and as patients were directed, against their will, to health systems and physicians they did not choose. The Republican Party stood silent as our

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vibrant, stellar medical profession was systematically ravaged by Obama's bureaucrats, by browbeating and intimidation, and saw its workforce decimated within a few short years. How were we to maintain our faith in a party that had sold out to the edicts of an administration bent on forcing its ideology and, more dangerously, a president who promised to punish his enemies?

The countless problems, economic, social and constitutional, engendered by the Affordable Care Act have threatened our values and disrupted our lives. It is not my intention to belabor those points. As a physician, however, it is my responsibility to bring to the fore the most distressing, indeed the most destructive, affliction that law has spawned: the spread of mediocrity in medical practice.

Hospital corporations, insurance companies and the White House now make up the triumvirate of healthcare, an insalubrious alliance which is already collapsing. Physicians have been forced into employment, by the implementation of measures designed to bankrupt their practices, and now function in near complete servitude, having no voice and no opinion. They serve the obfuscated "greater good" touted by the White House, and the financial investments of its allies.

The practice of medicine, now strained by menial tasks, feckless procedures and degrading regulations, no longer is rooted in passion, enthusiasm and the genuine desire to help, but rather hangs on financial necessity. Crushed and demoralized, physicians have been retiring in greater numbers than during any other period in history. Those who must remain in the workforce are silently indignant, discouraged and subdued. Many have become disengaged, others cynical. They are no longer able to be the physicians they had once aspired to be and provide their patients with superior care. Instead, they buckle under overwhelming directives, which lead them to curtail quality. As a consequence, medical mediocrity has become rampant and will soon dominate the field. Mr. Chairman, the medical profession is at the edge of a precipice and healthcare is in a state of decay. If you are not hearing from other physicians who are frustrated and disabused, it is because they have been muzzled.

What is the Republican plan for healthcare? Unfortunately, the "repeal and replace" refrain has turned into a hollow incantation. Enabling the purchase of health insurance across state lines is only a small step in the right direction. Indeed, The Affordable Care Act is not just a health insurance scheme, it is a fundamental restructuring of healthcare: one that empowers the White House and rewards its allies, enslaves physicians and abandons patients. Our failure to articulate a comprehensive plan which entirely abrogates that structure, yet count on the vote of a public now jaded by politicians, evokes memories of Nancy Pelosi's shameful admission "We must pass the law so we find out what is in it"! Mr. Chairman, we are better than that.

For Republicans to allow the disastrous consequences of Obamacare to prevail would be unconscionable. Exposing its bleak realities will open many voters' eyes, now that the

frenzy of 2010 has been assuaged by tangible facts.

Do people know why their insurance premiums have been skyrocketing? Do they really believe the ever rising cost simply serves to cover the previously uninsured? Do they understand that healthcare has become an oligopoly of health systems and insurance companies, stifling competition and forcing higher costs? Are they aware that, despite supporting the Affordable Care Act, many hospitals refuse to accept patients insured on the exchanges and that insurance companies are dropping those plans? Do they realize that a greater portion of their healthcare dollar is consumed by a bloated and growing bureaucracy, which seeks to limit their care? Have they been informed that Obamacare has saddled physicians with regulations, costing them an additional two to four hours of useless work every day, detracting from their clinical duties, their commitment and their continuing education? Do patients realize that Obamacare forces doctors into decisions that violate their conscience? Do they understand that hospitals and doctors can receive bonuses for denying care? Do they recognize that the medical profession has been decimated and that physician shortages are now customary, endangering the lives and wellbeing of the population?

Our recent Republican National Convention provided us with an opportunity to discuss our vision and offer the country a hopeful message: one that patients across party lines are yearning for, free of domination by socialist ideology and profit-minded corporations. Regrettably, the opportunity was missed, leaving the public, now inured to the abuses it has suffered, with the notion that our party was unprepared, had no viable alternative, or had simply acquiesced to the tenets of big government.

Not surprisingly, Democrats at their convention did not address healthcare either, managing to dodge criticism and eschew buyer's remorse over a plan which was dishonest and has failed most. By avoiding commentary, they left the impression of a fait accompli.

When I first came to America, as a young man, a distinct quality of the American spirit captivated my imagination: the obsession with individual excellence. Astonishingly, the Obama administration has sought to promote collective mediocrity. Will the Republican Party revive personal initiative, creative thinking, hard work and productivity, the generosity that comes from success, and the uniqueness of American excellence?

While terrorism, national security and the economy have taken the lead in the political conversation, the subject of healthcare cannot be ignored. Regardless of party affiliation, patients are feeling squeezed and receiving less adequate care every day. It is imperative that we address the issue. A plan that challenges big government and preserves the quality of medical care will earn us the respect and trust of millions. Many are ill and afraid, others perturbed by our crumbling standards. Acting before the election may lead us to victory in November. Irrespective of elections, however, acting is the moral and

responsible thing to do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'FN', with a large, sweeping loop above the letters.

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cc:

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