

November 10, 2013

Andrew Malcolm wants to clear up what the meaning of "lie" is.

*Let's clear up some foggy prevarications polluting President Obama's ongoing snow job for ObamaCare:*

*If you tell a spouse you're going to Sam's Club when you really mean Costco, that's no big deal. Those membership stores are the same, except one peddles better hot dogs. That's called misspeaking.*

*However, if you're president of the United States peddling a legislative tumor like ObamaCare, one that you know will drastically change almost one-fifth of the nation's economy, one that openly claims to help a few million uninsured Americans while secretly disrupting the lives, families, finances and medical care of more than 100 million Americans, and you say things like this:*

*"No matter how we reform health care, we will keep this promise to the American people: If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor. Period. If you like your health care plan, you'll be able to keep your health care plan. Period. No one will take it away, no matter what." -- Pres. Barack Obama to the American Medical Assn., June 15, 2009.*

*Or, if you say something like this:*

*"And if you like your insurance plan, you will keep it. No one will be able to take that away from you. It hasn't happened yet. It won't happen in the future." -- Pres. Obama, April 1, 2010. ...*

... The president's remarks on national TV were interrupted by a Republican representative, Joe Wilson of South Carolina. He shouted out, "You lie!" The breach of decorum raised quite a stir at the time.

***Turns out, Rep. Wilson wasn't just rude. He was prescient.***

John Hinderaker on the apology.

*Tonight's headlines tell us that President Obama has apologized for the fact that Obamacare has caused millions of Americans to lose their health insurance. That is, of course, a striking headline, but if we read what Obama actually said, it is apparent that his objective was not to offer a sincere apology, but to continue the Obamacare cover-up. Here is the interview; I created a partial transcript which is commented on below:*

Obama said:

*"What happened? Well, first of all, I meant what I said, and we worked hard to try to make sure that we implemented it properly. But obviously we didn't do a good enough job."*

*This is Obama's fundamental lie. Unless Obama never read the Obamacare statute and was never briefed on it by his aides or by Congressional Democrats, he knew perfectly well that most Americans were going to lose their existing health insurance under Obamacare. ...*

The larger lie packed into that apology is highlighted by Paul Mirengoff. Moreover, this statement from the same interview may come back to haunt Obama:

*"We are talking about 5% of the population who are in what's called the individual market. They're out there buying health insurance on their own. And even though it only affects a small amount of the population, it means a lot to them, obviously to get this letter canceled."*

*But, as John says, this 5 percent is only the tip of the iceberg. Once employer plans begin to be cancelled en masse, Obama will be seen to have doubled-down on deception, rather than coming clean in an interview in which he purports to do so.*

*Voters probably will want to know why their president, when apologizing for not having explained in advance to folks in the individual market that they would lose their coverage, misled folks in employer plans into believing that the problem did not extend to them.*

*Most will conclude, or be reinforced in their belief, that Obama is an inveterate dissembler. ...*

Peter Wehner on the many deceptions.

*... Mr. Obama is not your ordinary, run-of-the-mill fabulist. It appears as if he's in the process of becoming an inveterate one. He was, after all, building one untruth upon another. I say that because by now it's obvious to nearly everyone, including liberals, that the president and his aides knew that when he made his initial claim that under the Affordable Care Act you will be able to keep your health-care plan "no matter what"—that you would keep it "period"—he knew the*

assertion was false. Yet he repeated it over and over again. (I'd urge you to watch [this short video](#) produced by New York magazine, which is a montage of Obama quotes claiming "you can keep your plan no matter what.") ...

Another routine lie from the administration. The president met for two hours Wednesday with Dem senators. Yet, the meeting wasn't on the schedule. Sen. Mark Begich of Alaska let the cat out of the bag. [Roll Call](#) has the story.

*President Barack Obama heard an earful at the White House Wednesday from Senate Democrats running for re-election next year who are fuming about the Affordable Care Act's rocky rollout.*

*During a two-hour meeting that was not on the president's public schedule, the president met with 15 Senate Democrats facing the voters next year, as well as Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Chairman Michael Bennet, D-Colo.*

*Sen. Mark Begich of Alaska issued a release after the meeting torching the administration.*

*"It is simply unacceptable for Alaskans to bear the brunt of the Administration's mismanagement of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and that is the message U.S. Senator Mark Begich delivered to President Obama today," his office said in a statement blasted to reporters.*

*The release went on to say that Begich complained about "an unworkable website, technical glitches and inaccurate information about peoples' individual situations. Begich demanded the administration fix the problems immediately so Alaskans, including the 55,000 eligible for subsidies to lower monthly premiums, can realize the many benefits due to them as a result of the health reform law. ...*

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**IBD**

**[President Obama didn't misspeak; He lied](#)**

by Andrew Malcolm

Let's clear up some foggy prevarications polluting President Obama's ongoing snow job for ObamaCare:

If you tell a spouse you're going to Sam's Club when you really mean Costco, that's no big deal. Those membership stores are the same, except one peddles better hot dogs. That's called misspeaking.

However, if you're president of the United States peddling a legislative tumor like ObamaCare, one that you know will drastically change almost one-fifth of the nation's economy, one that openly claims to help a few million uninsured Americans while secretly disrupting the lives, families, finances and medical care of more than 100 million Americans, and you say things like this:

"No matter how we reform health care, we will keep this promise to the American people: If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor. Period. If you like your health care plan, you'll be able to keep your health care plan. Period. No one will take it away, no matter what." -- *Pres. Barack Obama to the American Medical Assn., June 15, 2009.*

Or, if you say something like this:

"And if you like your insurance plan, you will keep it. No one will be able to take that away from you. It hasn't happened yet. It won't happen in the future." -- *Pres. Obama, April 1, 2010.*

Or if you say something like this:

"If you like your plan, you'll be keeping your plan. No one's taking that away from you. Three months from now, six months from now, you're gonna look around, be sitting in your doctor's office, reading the old people magazines, you'll be saying, 'Hey, same doctor. Same plan. It wasn't Armageddon.'" -- *Pres. Obama, Sept. 25, 2010.*

Or maybe even like this:

"I want to speak plainly, clearly, honestly about what (ObamaCare) means for you and the people you care about. Let's start with this fact that even before the Affordable Care Act fully takes effect, about 85% of Americans already have health insurance either through their job, through Medicare or through the independent market.

"So, if you're one of these folks, it's reasonable you might worry whether healthcare reform is gonna create changes that are a problem for you, especially when you're bombarded by all sorts of fear-mongering. So, the first thing you need to know is this: If you already have healthcare, you don't have to do anything." -- *Pres. Obama, Sept. 26, 2013.*



*Uhm, uh, well...*

And then he rewrites rhetorical history with something like this:

"What we said was, you could keep (your policy) -- if it hasn't changed since the law passed." -- *Pres. Obama, Nov. 4, 2013.*

Now, you don't need Thor's super-powers to detect the dramatic difference between what Obama has been saying some two dozen times over three years and what just now he claims he was saying.

Too much to expect this guy to admit anything. In Dallas today, he'll bluff his way through another pitch.

Which has left Obama's press secretary, Jay Carney, struggling to explain his boss' remarks: "Look, I, as I said last week, accept that communications are challenging here. The President -- I mean, look, you have to remember that the Affordable Care Act promises....What the President was referring to was the broader promise of the Affordable Care Act."

Nice try. Americans don't always pay attention to politics. Who can blame them? And, actually, that's what Obama has successfully counted on, that his live-streamed snippets of falsehoods blared by a largely complicit media would trump critics' negative natterings.

But the broken promises, false claims and tortured truths have reached a critical mass now. Bludgeoned by Benghazi, IRS revelations, FBI probes, NSA disclosures, Fast and Furious, Solyndra, Syria's slips and now ObamaCare's sticker shock and outright whoppers, more Americans detect the odor of betrayal, however reluctantly. Gallup reported Tuesday that for the first time [Obama's daily job approval sank below 40%](#).

But *wait!* There is one more thing. Do you remember when Obama unveiled his healthcare "reform" scheme? That was way back on Sept. 9, 2009, in [a speech to a joint session of Congress](#).

Ironically, the president that night warned opponents against saying that his plan to ultimately centralize American healthcare in the federal government would do things that it wouldn't do. "If you misrepresent what's in this plan," Obama threatened, "we will call you out."

Now, today we have Obama having destroyed his own credibility by repeatedly claiming ObamaCare will not do things that it clearly will do.

That night on Capitol Hill, however, became more notorious for another quote. The president's remarks on national TV were interrupted by a Republican representative, Joe Wilson of South Carolina. He shouted out, "*You lie!*" The breach of decorum raised quite a stir at the time.

Turns out, Rep. Wilson wasn't just rude. He was prescient.

## **Power Line**

### **[Obama's Lying Apology](#)**

by John Hinderaker

Tonight's headlines tell us that President Obama has apologized for the fact that Obamacare has caused millions of Americans to lose their health insurance. That is, of course, a striking headline, but if we read what Obama actually said, it is apparent that his objective was not to offer a sincere apology, but to continue the Obamacare cover-up. Here is the interview; I created a partial transcript which is commented on below:

Obama said:

What happened? Well, first of all, I meant what I said, and we worked hard to try to make sure that we implemented it properly. But obviously we didn't do a good enough job.

This is Obama's fundamental lie. Unless Obama never read the Obamacare statute and was never briefed on it by his aides or by Congressional Democrats, he knew perfectly well that most Americans were going to lose their existing health insurance under Obamacare. Indeed, that was the point of the law: the administration could only finance subsidies for some Americans if it forced other Americans to buy, not the insurance they wanted, but insurance that would normally be considered absurdly overpriced. That is—to repeat—the principal point of the law.

We are talking about 5% of the population who are in what's called the individual market. They're out there buying health insurance on their own. And even though it only affects a small amount of the population, it means a lot to them, obviously to get this letter canceled.

This is BS, and Obama must know it. So far, many of the canceled policies that have hit the news have, in fact, related to the individual market. The fact that individual policies are being canceled left and right can't possibly come as a surprise to Obama; in June 2010, his administration predicted (as we pointed out [here](#)) that once Obamacare was implemented, "more than" a range of 40 percent to 67 percent of all individual policies would be illegal, and therefore would be canceled.

But individual policies are only the tip of the iceberg. At the same time, the Obama administration predicted that up to 69% of all employer-sponsored plans would also be canceled in the first year of Obamacare (i.e., 2014). The tens of millions who will lose their employer-sponsored plans will dwarf the number who lose individual policies. Much as the Obama administration would rather talk about web site travails than canceled insurance, it prefers to talk about individual policies rather than the employer-sponsored policies where most Americans get their health insurance, and which are also doomed under Obamacare. But unless the Democrats intend to repeal or postpone the implementation of Obamacare indefinitely, they are only delaying the inevitable.

Chuck Todd: Do you think you owe these folks an apology for misleading them, even if you didn't intentionally do it, but at this point they feel misled, and you have seen the anger that is out there.

Barack Obama: I regret very much that what we intended to do, which was to make sure that everybody is moving into better plans because they want them as opposed to because they are forced into it, but we weren't as clear as we needed to be in terms of the changes that were taking place, and I want to do everything we can to make sure that people are finding themselves in a good position, in a better position than they were in before this law happened. And I am sorry that they are finding themselves in this situation based on assurances they got from

me and we've got to work hard to make sure that they know we hear them and that we're going to do everything we can to deal with folks who find themselves in a tough position as a consequence of this.

This is typical Obama incoherence. He is either a stupid person, or a clever politician impersonating a stupid person; take your pick. He says he didn't intend to force people to change their health insurance arrangements, but his own administration adopted regulations that, by their own estimate, would force more than half of all Americans to do so, whether they wanted to or not. Is Obama entirely disconnected from, and not responsible for, his own administration?

He says that "we weren't as clear as we needed to be in terms of the changes that were taking place." Nonsense. Unclear has nothing to do with it. Obama was perfectly clear: If you like your health insurance plan, you can keep it! The problem is not that he was unclear, the problem is that he lied. At the same time the Obama administration was making those promises, they were scheming to force you out of whatever insurance arrangements you now enjoy, like it or not.

Finally, Obama says that "we're going to do everything we can to deal with folks who find themselves in a tough position as a consequence of this." Really? Are they going to repeal Obamacare? Because short of that, the millions of Americans who are now losing the coverages they freely chose, and the many millions more who lose them over the next year or two, as planned by the Obama administration, are simply screwed.

## Power Line

### [A "lying apology," but what did it say?](#)

by Paul Mirengoff

John does a [an excellent job](#) of showing that President Obama's "apology" regarding Obamacare merely attempts to perpetuate the administration's cover-up effort. But what exactly did Obama apologize for?

Here is the main apology sentence:

I am sorry that they [i.e., people who have lost their insurance plan] are finding themselves in this situation based on assurances they got from me.

But no one lost insurance coverage because of Obama's assurances that they wouldn't lose it. They lost their coverage by the natural operation of Obamacare.

Obama is probably saying — insincerely — that he's sorry people find themselves in the situation of having lost their health insurance *and are surprised about it* due to his assurances that this wouldn't happen. Indeed, Obama can't



plausibly say he's sorry merely for the loss of insurance coverage since (1) he has insisted that losing these "bad apple" plans is a good thing and (2) the law was designed so that people would lose coverage.

My interpretation is consistent with the "regret" Obama expresses in the same paragraph:

I regret very much that what we intended to do, which was to make sure that everybody is moving into better plans because they want them as opposed to because they are forced into it, *but we weren't as clear as we needed to be in terms of the changes that were taking place.* . .

So again, the "regret" is over people being surprised — ambushed, really — due to the administration's lack of clarity.

But, Obama had to ambush people. If he had spoken honestly about the effect of Obamacare on existing coverage before Congress voted on it, the law wouldn't have been enacted. If he had spoken honestly afterwards, he would have suffered immense political damage and jeopardized his reelection.

The real question, of course, is whether Obama's "apology" will help him and his Party. I don't think it will. The apology is too garbled. It sounds too much like what it is — a politician attempting to squirm out of a lie.

Moreover, this statement from the same interview may come back to haunt Obama:

We are talking about 5% of the population who are in what's called the individual market. They're out there buying health insurance on their own. And even though it only affects a small amount of the population, it means a lot to them, obviously to get this letter canceled.

But, as John says, this 5 percent is only the tip of the iceberg. Once employer plans begin to be cancelled en masse, Obama will be seen to have doubled-down on deception, rather than coming clean in an interview in which he purports to do so.

Voters probably will want to know why their president, when apologizing for not having explained in advance to folks in the individual market that they would lose their coverage, misled folks in employer plans into believing that the problem did not extend to them.

Most will conclude, or be reinforced in their belief, that Obama is an inveterate dissembler.

## Contentions

### Barack Obama's Multiplying Deceptions

by Peter Wehner

It was, I think, the most brazenly mendacious claim an American president has told since [Bill Clinton's finger-wagging insistence](#) that "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky."

I have in mind Barack Obama's statement, made earlier this week, in which he said this: "Now, if you have or had one of these plans before the Affordable Care Act came into law and you really liked that plan, what we said was you can keep it if it hasn't changed since the law passed." (Emphasis added.)

That is not, in fact, what the president said. Not by a country mile.

What Mr. Obama actually said, dozens of times, is a variation of what he said during a speech to the American Medical Association on June 15, 2009: "That means that no matter how we reform health care, we will keep this promise to the American people: If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor, period. If you like your health-care plan, you'll be able to keep your health-care plan, period. No one will take it away, no matter what."

But Mr. Obama is not your ordinary, run-of-the-mill fabulist. It appears as if he's in the process of becoming an inveterate one. He was, after all, building one untruth upon another. I say that because by now it's obvious to nearly everyone, including liberals, that the president and his aides knew that when he made his initial claim that under the Affordable Care Act you will be able to keep your health-care plan "no matter what"—that you would keep it "period"—he knew the assertion was false. Yet he repeated it over and over again. (I'd urge you to watch [this short video](#) produced by *New York* magazine, which is a montage of Obama quotes claiming "you can keep your plan no matter what.")

The last six weeks have been brutal ones for the Obama presidency. And I'm guessing that the damage that's been inflicted will not be transitory. All the failures surrounding the Affordable Care Act—from the disastrous rollout of the federal health-care exchanges, to sticker shock surrounding premiums and deductibles, to the jolting realization that millions of people are now being forced out of health-care plans they like (with millions more to follow)—has likely left an indelible mark of incompetence on Mr. Obama. He looks like nothing so much as a community organizer who is totally overmatched by events.

That would be injurious enough. But now you can add to the mix the shattering of Mr. Obama's credibility; the belief among a growing number of his fellow citizens that he cannot be trusted, that he will corrupt words in order to advance his ways. Those character defects would be troubling enough in, say, a state senator. They

are much more problematic to find in an American president. It's all very discouraging.

Mary McCarthy once said of the playwright Lillian Hellman, "[E]very word she writes is a lie, including 'and' and 'the.'" Mr. Obama isn't at that point yet. But he's closer than he thinks. And unless he puts an end to his multiplying deceptions, Barack Obama's presidency will not only lie in ruins; his reputation will as well.

## **Roll Call**

### **[Democrats Up in 2014 Vent Their Obamacare Anger in White House Meeting](#)**

by Steven Dennis

President Barack Obama heard an earful at the White House Wednesday from Senate Democrats running for re-election next year who are fuming about the Affordable Care Act's rocky rollout.

During a two-hour meeting that was not on the president's public schedule, the president met with 15 Senate Democrats facing the voters next year, as well as Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Chairman Michael Bennet, D-Colo.

Sen. Mark Begich of Alaska issued a release after the meeting torching the administration.

"It is simply unacceptable for Alaskans to bear the brunt of the Administration's mismanagement of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and that is the message U.S. Senator Mark Begich delivered to President Obama today," his office said in a statement blasted to reporters.

The release went on to say that Begich complained about "an unworkable website, technical glitches and inaccurate information about peoples' individual situations. Begich demanded the administration fix the problems immediately so Alaskans, including the 55,000 eligible for subsidies to lower monthly premiums, can realize the many benefits due to them as a result of the health reform law.

"Alaskans should be appreciating the critical benefits of the Affordable Care Act but there is an understandable crisis in confidence because the administration has yet to get it off the ground," Begich said.

Sen. Mark Udall of Colorado said he let the president know just how upset he is about the troubled health care law. He sent out a release saying that he had pressed the administration to extend the enrollment period due to the problems

with HealthCare.gov, ensure that the data on the website is secure and make other modifications.

“The rollout of HealthCare.gov has not been smooth — to say the least — and I shared the concerns of Coloradans directly with the president,” Udall said in the statement. “Consumers should have the time they need to shop for a plan and enroll after the widespread problems with the website are fixed. I urged the president again to extend the enrollment period to give consumers enough time to make an informed decision about their family’s health insurance options. I also told the president that, for the Affordable Care Act to succeed, consumers need to be confident their personal information is secure. We need to do everything in our power to protect the online marketplace from hackers and cyberattacks.”

A White House official released a readout of the meeting “to discuss the progress that’s been made” and “hear their input on existing challenges” with the law.

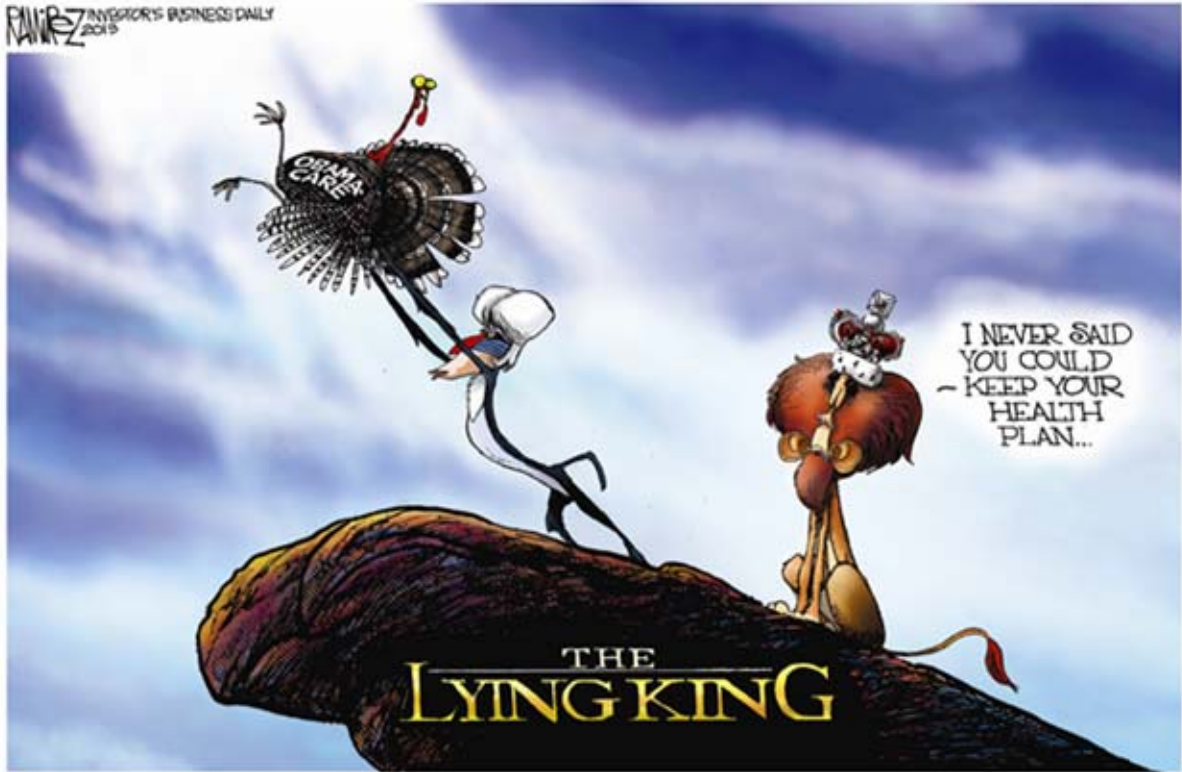
“The President emphasized that he shared the Senators’ commitment to ensuring that Americans who want to enroll in health insurance through the Marketplaces are able to do so in time for insurance to start as early as January 1<sup>st</sup>, and throughout the open enrollment period which goes through March 31,” the official said. “He also discussed ongoing efforts to ramp up communication and education outreach to consumers who have received or might receive letters about how their individual market plans might be affected. In addition, the President also reiterated that the Administration is working to protect the privacy and security of consumers and to ensure that online Marketplace applications are protected by stringent security standards, with ongoing testing to help safeguard personal information.”

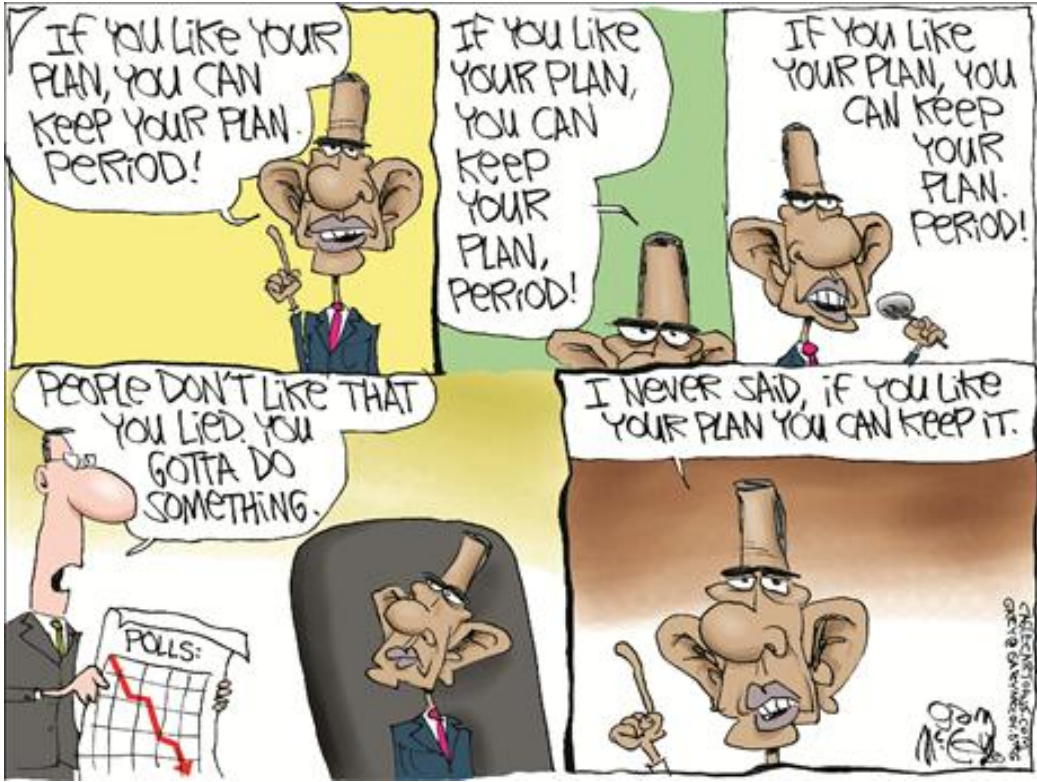
Udall also sent letters to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and to Marilyn Tavenner, who oversees the agency charged with implementing the law, outlining his concerns.

In addition to Bennet, Udall and Begich, attendees included the other Senate Democrats up in 2014: Cory Booker of New Jersey, Chris Coons of Delaware, Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, Al Franken of Minnesota, Kay Hagan of North Carolina, Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana, Jeff Merkley of Oregon, Mark Pryor of Arkansas, Jack Reed of Rhode Island, Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, Brian Schatz of Hawaii, Tom Udall of New Mexico and Mark Warner of Virginia. Ed Markey of Massachusetts, who is also up in 2014, did not attend because he was chairing a hearing on USAID and Peace Corps nominations.

After the meeting, the president’s trip to Texas was delayed about an hour. He is scheduled to give a speech on Obamacare and attend two high-dollar fund-raisers for the DSCC. Bennet boarded Marine One with him on the South Lawn and will make the trip.

The White House meeting came as Senate Democrats have grown increasingly concerned about the rollout, with Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., saying Tuesday that the early problems had created a ["crisis of confidence."](#)







"YOU'LL HAVE A TOFU BURGER AND LARGE BROCCOLI."



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JAY CARNEY.