

November 14, 2013

Steve Hayward sticks his neck out and predicts the healthcare law will be repealed. *Prediction: even if HealthCare.gov is fixed by the end of the month (unlikely), Obamacare is going to be repealed well in advance of next year's election. And if the website continues to fail, the push for repeal—from endangered Democrats—will occur very rapidly. The website is a sideshow: the real action is the number of people and businesses who are losing their health plans or having to pay a lot more. Fixing the website will only delay the inevitable.*

It is important to remember why it was so important for Obama to promise repeatedly that “if you like your health insurance/doctor, you can keep your health insurance/doctor.” Cast your mind back to the ignominious collapse of Hillarycare in 1994. Hillarycare came out of the box in September 1993 to high public support according to the early polls. This was not a surprise. Opinion polls for decades have shown a large majority of Americans support the general idea of universal health coverage. But Hillarycare came apart as the bureaucratic details came out, the most important one being that you couldn't be sure you'd be able to keep your doctors or select specialists of your choice. The Clintons refused to consider a compromise, but even with large Democratic Senate and House majorities the bill was so dead it was never brought up for a vote

Remember “Harry and Louise”? Obama did, which is why he portrayed Obamacare as simply expanding coverage to the uninsured, and improving coverage for the underinsured while leaving the already insured undisturbed. But the redistributive arithmetic of Obamacare's architecture could never add up, which is what the bureaucrats knew early on—as early as 2010 according to many documents that have leaked. The wonder is that Obama's political team didn't see this coming and prepare a pre-emptive strategy for dealing with the inevitable exposure of the duplicity at the heart of Obamacare's logic. Now that people are losing their insurance and finding that they may not be able to keep their doctor after all, Obamacare has become the domestic policy equivalent of the Iraq War: a protracted fiasco that is proving fatal to a president's credibility and approval rating. ...

Perhaps Hayward is right when even WaPo's Chris Cillizza can no longer ignore the disaster.

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Except that it's not. At all.

Take a look back at the election results from the second midterm elections of presidents, which is what 2014 will be. From the end of World War II up until the 1986 election, the president's party lost an average of 48 seats in the House and seven seats in the Senate, according to the indispensable Congressional analyst Norm Ornstein. That “six year itch” trend has slowed in more recent second term midterm elections — the average losses for the president's party in

the 1986, 1998 and 2006 midterms is 10 seats in the House and 4 seats in the Senate — but the pattern of losses remain. (In only two six year itch elections since the Civil War — one of which happened in 1998 — has the president's party not lost seats in Congress.)

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Consider:

1. Instead of laudatory coverage, the administration is being slammed over its Iran negotiations, shedding doubt about the credibility of the president and his secretary of state. Like President Richard Nixon declaring "I am not a crook," John Kerry was compelled to insist "We are not blind, and I don't think we're stupid."

2. The administration has a knack for making bad situations awful. It misrepresented the president's promise we could keep our insurance plans and doctors for days, until media pummeling made him give it up with a half-hearted apology. Now Kerry is spinning an unbelievable tale of the Geneva negotiations, making the Iranians' account — which tracked all Western media accounts — seem the more honest of the two. (Iran negotiator Javad Zarif tweeted, " Mr.Secretary, was it Iran that gutted over half of US draft Thursday night? and publicly commented against it Friday morning?") ...

And Bill Clinton has left the reservation. **The Hill** has the story.

President Obama scrambled to find a coherent response Tuesday after former President Clinton jammed the administration by saying it should keep its promise that people could keep their health insurance plans if they liked them.

The White House said Obama agreed with Clinton, but it offered no concrete idea on how that could be done.

Anxiety is growing among congressional Democrats, with the House poised to vote this week on Republican legislation to let insurers offer their old plans even if they don't meet the new standards required by ObamaCare.

Whatever Bill Clinton's motives — Republicans say he is distancing his wife, Hillary Clinton, from the ObamaCare debacle in advance of a White House run — his comments sharply intensified pressure on the president to change his signature law.

The White House opposes the pending House Republican bill but has no alternative yet. The quicker Obama comes up with an answer the better, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) said Tuesday. ...

More on Bill Clinton's move from [Jonathan Tobin](#).

The five-year-long dance between the Clintons and President Obama has always been an interesting show, but never more so than now as the runner-up in the 2008 Democratic presidential contest starts to maneuver in preparation for 2016. Hillary Clinton spent her four years as secretary of state playing the good soldier for the president, doing little of value but also (and unlike her spectacularly inept successor John Kerry) causing him little trouble. She exited the cabinet with a presidential love fest that had to annoy Vice President Joe Biden, her only likely rival for 2016. But now that she is safely out of the Washington maelstrom and embarked on a path that she hopes will see her return to the White House as president rather than first lady, her relationship with Obama has undergone a not-so-subtle change. That has allowed some of the old antagonism between her and, in particular, her husband and the man who beat her in 2008 to resurface.

That antagonism was on display today as Bill Clinton joined the growing chorus of critics of the ObamaCare rollout in an interview published in a web magazine. Speaking much as if he was one of the angry red-state Democrats who think the president's lies about ObamaCare can sink their hopes of reelection next year, the 42nd president stuck a knife into the 44th president by saying the law should be changed to accommodate the demands of those who are losing their coverage despite the president's promises to the contrary: ...

And [David Harsanyi](#) asks what is wrong with rooting for failure?

... There are other reasons to cheer failure, as well. As Ed Rogers at The Washington Post recently wrote, "the failure of Obamacare would discourage and hopefully deter those who think a bigger, more domineering U.S. government is the answer to our problems. And most important, the horrors of this debacle and the collapse of Obamacare would have a chilling effect on politicians who want to promote big government solutions."

My hope is that Obamacare — not to mention numerous other initiatives supported by the president — fails for a whole host of reasons. And not only do I have my fingers crossed that Obamacare fails in the way that most policy fails us but I hope it fails so hard that any residual perception among voters that any part of it was prudent policy is completely eliminated. Anything less might mean that a substantial enough bloc of Americans would continue to operate under the false impression that top-down technocratic control of their decisions is a good idea. And that would be a genuine failure.

Wishful thinking, no doubt. And admittedly, there's also a self-centered reason to root for your ideological opponents not to [succeed](#). Their misfortune confirms your worldview — one that you've probably spent considerable time and effort cultivating. Anyone with a shred of intellectual honesty remains somewhat open to the possibility that he is wrong, but he is certainly under no obligation to root against his own beliefs. Not even if a president armed with a straw man demands it of him.

Forbes

[Obamacare Will Be Repealed Well In Advance Of The 2014 Elections](#)

by Steve Hayward

Prediction: even if [HealthCare.gov](#) is fixed by the end of the month (unlikely), Obamacare is going to be repealed well in advance of next year's election. And if the website continues to fail, the push for repeal—from endangered Democrats—will occur very rapidly. The website is a sideshow: the real action is the number of people and businesses who are losing their health plans or having to pay a lot more. Fixing the website will only delay the inevitable.

It is important to remember why it was so important for Obama to promise repeatedly that “if you like your health insurance/doctor, you can keep your health insurance/doctor.” Cast your mind back to the ignominious collapse of Hillarycare in 1994. Hillarycare came out of the box in September 1993 to high public support according to the early polls. This was not a surprise. Opinion polls for decades have shown a large majority of Americans support the general idea of universal health coverage. But Hillarycare came apart as the bureaucratic details came out, the most important one being that you couldn't be sure you'd be able to keep your doctors or select specialists of your choice. The Clintons refused to consider a compromise, but even with large Democratic Senate and House majorities the bill was so dead it was never brought up for a vote.

Remember “[Harry and Louise](#)”? Obama did, which is why he portrayed Obamacare as simply expanding coverage to the uninsured, and improving coverage for the underinsured while leaving the already insured undisturbed. But the redistributive arithmetic of Obamacare's architecture could never add up, which is what the bureaucrats knew early on—as early as 2010 according to many documents that have leaked. The wonder is that Obama's political team didn't see this coming and prepare a pre-emptive strategy for dealing with the inevitable exposure of the duplicity at the heart of Obamacare's logic. Now that people are losing their insurance and finding that they may not be able to keep their doctor after all, Obamacare has become the domestic policy equivalent of the Iraq War: a protracted fiasco that is proving fatal to a president's credibility and approval rating. The only thing missing is calling in FEMA to help fix this Category-5 political disaster.

Senate Democrats endangered for re-election will lead the charge for repeal perhaps as soon as January, after they get an earful over the Christmas break. They'll call it “reform,” and clothe it in calls for delaying the individual mandate and allowing people and businesses to keep their existing health insurance policies. But it is probably too late to go back in many cases. With the political damage guaranteed to continue, the momentum toward repeal will be unstoppable. Democrats will not want to face the voters next November with the albatross of Obamacare.

The politics of the repeal effort will be a game theorist's dream. Tea Party Republicans will resist “reforms” to Obamacare in favor of complete repeal. Democrats will try to turn the tables

and set up Republicans as obstacles to reform, hoping to inoculate themselves prospectively from mayhem at the polls next November. The House might want to insist that the Senate go first; after all, it was the Senate version of the bill that the House had to swallow after Scott Brown's election in January 2010. The House can rightly insist that the Senate needs to clean up the mess they made. Obama may well give Capitol Hill Democrats a pass on a repeal vote, and veto any bill that emerges. He'll never face the voters again.

This wouldn't be the first time that a health care entitlement was repealed. The same thing happened in the late 1980s with catastrophic coverage for seniors. Because seniors were made to pay for their benefits under that scheme, the uproar forced Congress to repeal the measure barely a year after it went into effect. Obamacare looks to be on the same political trajectory, and for the same reason. Obamacare represents the crisis of big government; the limits of administrative government have finally been breached. For the first time ever, some polls are showing a majority of Americans doubting the goal of universal health coverage.

The hazard of the moment is that a compromise "reform" that drops the mandate and attempts to restore the insurance *status quo ante* could leave us with an unfunded expansion of Medicaid and a badly disrupted private insurance market. Republicans should avoid both the political traps and a new fiscal time bomb by being ready with a serious replacement policy, based on the premium support tax credit ideas that John McCain advocated (poorly) in 2008. While anxious liberals are in dismay, they should recognize that Obamacare may well have achieved its chief purpose of making universal or at least greatly expanded health coverage a fixture of American social policy. The cost to liberalism may prove fatal, however.

Washington Post

[Why President Obama's sinking job approval numbers matter. A lot.](#)

by Chris Cillizza

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There are a panoply of theories to explain the historical consistency of the six year itch. [Here's Fix mentor and non-partisan political handicapper Charlie Cook's explanation:](#)

When a president is elected, he is full of energy and new ideas. There is an excitement surrounding the election of a new commander in chief in the first couple of years and a considerable amount of momentum. In the third and fourth years, all of those favorables are harnessed in reelecting the president. In their fifth and sixth years, presidencies tend to run out of gas and new ideas, and their novelty has worn off. The public begins to gradually and increasingly grow weary, resulting in bad six-year itches.

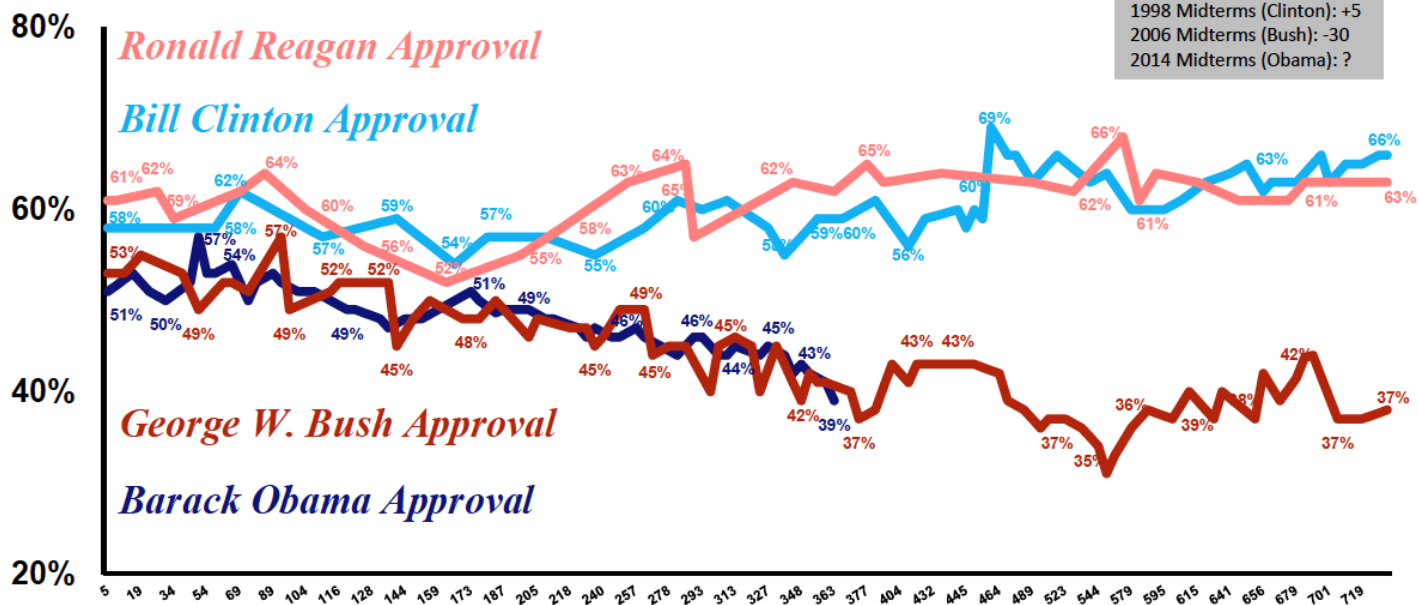
Here's our take: It's impossible to separate out how a president is doing in the eyes of the public from how voters will judge his party — even, and maybe especially, in an election in which his name is not actually on the ballot. The relatively minor losses incurred by Ronald Reagan in 1986 and Bill Clinton's history-making gains in 1998 came as both men were remarkably well-liked by the general electorate. In 2006, a deeply unpopular George W. Bush watched his party lose 30 seats and control of the House. Check out this chart from Robert Blizzard, a Republican pollster at Public Opinion Strategies, that details the arc of presidential approval in second terms.

It sure looks like Obama's second-term approval trend is following W's, NOT Reagan's or Clinton's.

*Obama/Bush/Clinton/Reagan 2nd Term Job Approval
By Days Since Re-Election*

*Change in U.S. House Seats by
President's Party at 2nd Term
Midterm Elections*

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1986 Midterms (Reagan): | -5 |
| 1998 Midterms (Clinton): | +5 |
| 2006 Midterms (Bush): | -30 |
| 2014 Midterms (Obama): | ? |



Approval ratings from weekly Gallup tracking polls. Days since re-election calculated from last field day of poll.

The similarities between Bush's trend line and Obama's should be a major concern for Democrats hoping to hold the Senate and retake the House next year. And, already there are signs of real worry among Democrats who will be running for re-election in areas that are less-than-friendly to the president. Georgia Rep. John Barrow, who represents a district that gave Mitt Romney 55 percent in 2012, [became the first Democrat to sign on to a Republican-led House effort that would allow those who wanted to keep the insurance they had prior to Obamacare to do so](#). In the Senate, Louisiana Democrat Mary Landrieu is spearheading a similar effort amid [signs that Obamacare could jeopardize her chances at a fourth term next November](#). And, Landrieu was one of 16 Democratic Senators — a group that included other 2014 targets like Mark Begich of Alaska and Mark Pryor of Arkansas — to [visit the White House last week to voice concerns about the troubled rollout of Obamacare](#).

So, no, President Obama doesn't need to worry about how his sinking job approval — and personal favorability — numbers will impact his future races. But, if you believe that at least some portion of a president's legacy is built on — or broken by — the state he leaves his party in when he departs office than Obama's poll standing matters a whole heck of a lot as we get closer and closer to 2014. The loss of the Senate majority and a smaller minority in the House after November 2014 would make any attempt to rack up second term accomplishments before he left office extremely difficult for Obama. Combine that with the reality that Obama's second term has not exactly been larded with major wins to date and you understand why Obama and his legacy are on the ballot in 2014 — even if his name is not. And that means his poll numbers matter. A lot.

Right Turn

[10 Reasons for the White House to panic](#)

by Jennifer Rubin

Sometimes a White House becomes obsessed with small dips in the polls and paranoid about transitory stories harmful to the president. This is not one of those times. It is time to call in a savior chief of staff in the mold of Howard Baker or look at some serious policy changes. Consider:

1. Instead of laudatory coverage, the administration is being slammed over its Iran negotiations, shedding doubt about the credibility of the president and his secretary of state. Like President Richard Nixon declaring "I am not a crook," [John Kerry was compelled to insist](#) "We are not blind, and I don't think we're stupid."
2. The administration has a knack for making bad situations awful. It misrepresented the president's promise we could keep our insurance plans and doctors for days, until media pummeling made him give it up with a half-hearted apology. Now Kerry is spinning an unbelievable tale of the Geneva negotiations, making the Iranians' account — which tracked all Western media accounts — seem the more honest of the two. (Iran negotiator [Javad Zarif tweeted](#), "Mr. Secretary, was it Iran that gutted over half of US draft Thursday night? and publicly commented against it Friday morning?")

3. The administration will have to reveal the Obamacare enrollment figures. Initial reports indicate the number could be fewer than [50,000](#) (!).
4. The administration very likely at the end of the year will see more people booted off health insurance than signed up through the exchanges, making Obamacare a cause of the uninsured problem, not a solution to it.
5. The president's [poll numbers continue to tank](#), suggesting he hasn't hit rock-bottom yet.
6. Whether it is on Iran or Obamacare, the administration is increasingly at odds with Senate Democrats. Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, for example, is co-sponsoring a bill to let people keep their insurance, which would fundamentally undermine the exchanges.
7. The press is less willing than ever to carry the White House's water.
8. The budget talks will lead to some small-ball deals, at best. Immigration reform is on life support. So what will the president accomplish in his second term?
9. Republicans now seem to understand that they need to stay out of their own way, not give the president a juicy target (as he had on the shutdown) and stick to the facts (which are damning whether we are talking foreign or domestic policy).
10. The president has managed to reunite the right somewhat. They all want to expose and get rid of Obamacare. I haven't heard any GOP voices defending the administration's effort to throw Israel and American security under the bus.

The Hill

[Obama is boxed in by Bill Clinton](#)

by Jonathan Easley

President Obama scrambled to find a coherent response Tuesday after former President Clinton jammed the administration by saying it should keep its promise that people could keep their health insurance plans if they liked them.

The White House said Obama agreed with Clinton, but it offered no concrete idea on how that could be done.

Anxiety is growing among congressional Democrats, with the House poised to vote this week on Republican legislation to let insurers offer their old plans even if they don't meet the new standards required by ObamaCare.

Whatever Bill Clinton's motives — Republicans say he is distancing his wife, Hillary Clinton, from the ObamaCare debacle in advance of a White House run — his comments sharply intensified pressure on the president to change his signature law.

The White House opposes the pending House Republican bill but has no alternative yet. The quicker Obama comes up with an answer the better, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) said Tuesday.

“I don’t know whether we’ll press them, but they say they’re coming up with [a change], so sooner rather than later as to what their thinking is would be better,” Hoyer said during a press briefing in the Capitol.

Hoyer said he’s leaning toward opposing the GOP bill, sponsored by Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.), which Republican aides say has close to 150 co-sponsors, but he emphasized that he hasn’t seen the final version.

“As I understand it, it’s being changed and modified, so I’m going to reserve any judgment until I see his bill,” Hoyer said.

Upton’s bill would give insurance companies the option of offering the old plans, but health experts told The Hill they didn’t know how the administration could ensure that many of the nearly 5 million people who have had their plans canceled could get them back.

“It’s literally an administrative nightmare,” said Bill Hoagland, a senior vice president at the Bipartisan Policy Center.

The first hurdle is operational. Healthcare plans have to go through a federal review and approval process before they can be sold on the exchanges.

“These processes can take months,” said Robert Zirkelbach a spokesman for America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), the country’s largest healthcare trade organization.

Many of the old plans have already been eliminated from the exchanges for not meeting minimum requirements.

“We can’t bring plans back from the dead,” said an aide to Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.), the chief sponsor of a Senate bill that would require insurance companies to offer plans that were offered before the new ObamaCare standards took effect.

In addition, many consumers have been notified that they’ll be required to change to an approved alternative, and in many cases, have already enrolled in the new plans, even if they had wanted to stay in their old one.

“The notices have gone out; the programming has taken place; you’ve got the approvals from state commissioners on the plans,” Hoagland said. “I’m not saying it’s impossible, but you add that to the already existing administrative issues, and it further complicates things.”

Yet lawmakers, particularly Democrats in red states who are being hit on the issue by Republicans, are increasingly desperate to back legislation that would allow people to keep their canceled plans.

“When I first heard [about the proposals], I said ‘Oh my gosh, they’re in trouble,’ ” said Hoagland.

A new poll released Tuesday showed Sen. Kay Hagan's (D-N.C.) lead in polls ahead of her reelection effort next year all but disappearing. Hagan is one of several red state Democrats backing Landrieu's measure.

Changing the law to accommodate people who purchased individual plans before ObamaCare went into effect could have serious implications for the new marketplace's risk pool, premium prices and the cost of the law to the federal government.

Cori Uccello, a senior health policy fellow at the American Academy of Actuaries (AAA), told The Hill that those seeking to keep their current, potentially cheaper plans, would likely be younger and healthier, while those happy to transition from the old plans would be doing so for the beefed-up coverage that benefits the sick.

The Obama administration is pushing to sign up the young and healthy, as a balanced risk pool is critical to keeping premiums affordable for everyone in 2015 and beyond.

"The fear is that the risk pools would be more costly than expected," Uccello said.

Of course, 2014 premiums have already been calculated based on assumptions that the old policies would be canceled, so the government could face a shortage if it doesn't collect enough to cover next year's premiums because of a late change to the law.

The government can't set 2015 premiums to recoup losses from previous years.

"The premiums have been filed for 2014 based on an assumptions about when existing policies are ending, and when people would transition to the new marketplace," Zirkelbach said. "A wholesale change this late in the game would impact assumptions about those premiums, so those are all issues we'd need to address."

Clinton's comments on Tuesday greatly intensified the pressure on the administration, as did the decision by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) to back Landrieu's legislation.

"I personally believe, even if it takes a change in the law, that the president should honor the commitment the federal government made to those people and let them keep what they've got," Clinton said in an interview at OZY.com.

Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) said the comments reflected the "growing recognition" that Americans were misled about being able to keep their existing plans.

Contentions

[Bill Clinton Sticks a Knife in ObamaCare](#)

by Jonathan S. Tobin

The five-year-long dance between the Clintons and President Obama has always been an interesting show, but never more so than now as the runner-up in the 2008 Democratic presidential contest starts to maneuver in preparation for 2016. Hillary Clinton spent her four

years as secretary of state playing the good soldier for the president, doing little of value but also (and unlike her spectacularly inept successor John Kerry) causing him little trouble. She exited the cabinet with a presidential love fest that had to annoy Vice President Joe Biden, her only likely rival for 2016. But now that she is safely out of the Washington maelstrom and embarked on a path that she hopes will see her return to the White House as president rather than first lady, her relationship with Obama has undergone a not-so-subtle change. That has allowed some of the old antagonism between her and, in particular, her husband and the man who beat her in 2008 to resurface.

That antagonism was on display today as Bill Clinton [joined the growing chorus of critics](#) of the ObamaCare rollout in an interview [published in a web magazine](#). Speaking much as if he was one of the angry red-state Democrats who think the president's lies about ObamaCare can sink their hopes of reelection next year, the 42nd president stuck a knife into the 44th president by saying the law should be changed to accommodate the demands of those who are losing their coverage despite the president's promises to the contrary:

"I personally believe even if it takes a change in the law, the president should honor the commitment the federal government made to those people and let them keep what they got."

In doing so, the former unofficial "explainer in chief" for Obama has helped undermine the notion that the president's signature health-care legislation can be kept intact. But he has also begun the process by which Hillary will begin to disassociate herself from an administration that is beginning to take on the odor of lame-duck failure.

White House spokesmen Jay Carney tried to represent Clinton's defection as somehow consistent with the president's comments during his cribbed "apology" for the false information about the bill that he repeated ad nauseum during the last three years ("If you like your health care plan...") during an interview with NBC's Chuck Todd last week. The president said his team would study how to make it up to the millions who are losing their coverage and being hit with huge increases in their premiums. But he knows very well that to do that would essentially destroy the system on which ObamaCare is based. The point is there is no way for responsible citizens who pay for their insurance not to be the losers in this scheme since without bilking them (as well as the recruitment of vast numbers of young, healthy people who will pay for more insurance than most will want or need) it will be impossible to carry off the vast redistribution of wealth that is at the core of ObamaCare.

That's why the willingness of Democrats to embrace the bill proposed by Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu (one of those endangered red-state Democrats) to legislate a fix that would allow Americans to keep their existing coverage is so dangerous for ObamaCare. It's not clear such a fix is even possible, but the willingness of Democrats like California's Dianne Feinstein to jump at that wagon shows that the ground is slipping away from underneath the president's feet. While the White House has said their concern is eliminating substandard insurance policies, this is another barefaced lie as the whole point here is roping in more people to pay for those who are currently uninsured, not improving their coverage.

This may be a turning point in the history of ObamaCare as the dysfunctional website now appears to be the least of the president's problems. But it is also a sign that his would-be successor now believes that she must detach herself from what appears to be a disastrous second term. If we needed an official notification that the future of the Democratic Party wants no part of the problems of the present, Hillary's husband just delivered it.

Human Events

What's wrong with rooting for failure?

by David Harsanyi

In a news conference expected to feature a mea culpa for the Obamacare website fiasco, [President Barack Obama](#) turned the tables on his political opponents, scolding them for using their supernatural ability to transform the mere hope of failure into a reality.

“It’s time,” he implored, “for folks to stop rooting for its failure, because hardworking middle-class families are rooting for its [success](#).”

There is a serious problem with that statement. Now, if you’re a libertarian, rooting for Washington to fail is probably one of your cherished hobbies. It’s certainly one of the most unappreciated sentiments a person embraces. And most often, there is nothing unpatriotic, immoral or unethical about it. Quite the opposite, really.

Sometimes we have no choice. Example: As the Red Sox (a team that, as a Yankees fan, I detest) and the Cardinals (a team for which I have no strong feelings either way) meet in the World Series, I am forced to enthusiastically cheer for a Boston flop — with any luck, an ugly and dramatic flop. When sweet failure arrives, I intend to fully embrace schadenfreude (the ugly cousin of “rooting for failure”), knowing full well that my wishes had absolutely no bearing on the outcome.

Not so in [politics](#), evidently. Nowadays, rooting against the Democrats is tantamount to rooting against America. But it’s a fallacy that any failure has, by default, a negative consequence. Attaching a phony moral significance to the word “failure” is, as anyone who’s watched politics or witnessed what bad legislation can do, nothing more than a way to smear your opponent’s intentions. It’s a weak attempt to bully those who disagree with you into rhetorical submission.

When it comes to Obamacare, it’s likely that most failure boosters have no desire to see “hardworking middle-class families” or, for that matter, even lazy rich families suffer unnecessarily.

When confronted by this false choice, plenty of middle-class [families](#) are, no doubt, rooting for failure, as well. If an American believes Obamacare is unhelpful, destructive or counterproductive, its failure is success.

There are other reasons to cheer failure, as well. As Ed Rogers at The *Washington Post* recently wrote, “the failure of Obamacare would discourage and hopefully deter those who think a bigger, more domineering U.S. government is the answer to our problems. And most important, the horrors of this debacle and the collapse of Obamacare would have a chilling effect on politicians who want to promote big government solutions.”

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perception among voters that any part of it was prudent policy is completely eliminated. Anything less might mean that a substantial enough bloc of Americans would continue to operate under the false impression that top-down technocratic control of their decisions is a good idea. And that would be a genuine failure.

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The Big F*cking Deal



**THE OBAMACARE ROLLOUT
DEMOCRATS WORRY ABOUT MOST...**

CREATORS SYNDICATE
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