

Senator Joe Negron  
3500 SW Corporate Parkway  
Suite 204  
Palm City, FL 34990

December 6, 2012

Senator Negron

On behalf of the dozens of tea party groups we represent, The Florida Alliance wishes to express our appreciation for your efforts to evaluate the proper response for the government of the state of Florida as the Federal government seeks to implement "Obamacare" (the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, PPACA). We recognize that there will be a great deal of information for you and your committee to digest as you evaluate policy and law while deciding how best to proceed. You will need to best determine the best way to defend the natural rights of Floridians protected by the Florida and U.S. Constitutions. We would like your committee and all elected officials to consider the very important and extremely negative aspects of PPACA as we briefly describe here. We also wish you to recognize that there are alternative pathways for achieving markedly increased access to lower cost and higher quality health care and health insurance for Florida that are outside those envisioned in PPACA. Finally, we wish to apologize for the behavior of some of our compatriots who were over-enthusiastic and inappropriate at the Select Senate Committee on PPACA meeting this week.

We remind you here of what you already know. PPACA will continue to increase the cost of insurance premiums. It will create a system of government and corporate control that interferes with the patient-physician relationship. PPACA will allow government panels to create rationing protocols to save money, while harming patients and then empower insurance companies to impose them on patients. PPACA will be another economically unsustainable government program that will raise taxes, increase borrowing and further weaken our country and our state financially. Finally, many of our fellow patriots will choose not to comply with the mandates and control structures of PPACA. They are asking you to ensure that their natural rights as protected by the Florida Constitution are defended to the greatest extent possible; this is consistent with the federal model of government and the rights protected by the tenth amendment of the U.S. Constitution. We remind you that Governors of Texas, Georgia, Ohio, Arizona and others have already decided not to implement State Based Exchanges. They recognize they would have a state-based exchange "in name only" and that the federal control and federally imposed costs of setting up such an exchange was not in the best interests of their citizens. In fact, the state of Oklahoma is challenging what they describe as an unlawful attempt by the IRS to impose penalties on Employers who do not comply with PPACA through Federally-Facilitated Exchanges. We believe the Oklahoma lawsuit should be completely resolved prior to any consideration whatsoever by Florida to create any sort of State Based Exchange or Federal-State partnership for an exchange under PPACA.

We also know there are better ways to improve access to lower cost, higher quality care than expanding the status quo of government and insurance company control of health care spending and decisions. To name but a few, they include: 1) individual financial empowerment through health savings accounts linked to high deductible health plans; 2) interstate purchasing of health insurance and life-time portability of health insurance from job to job; 3) availability of an equal tax deduction for individual

purchase of health insurance outside of work; and 4) de-regulation of the insurance market to remove mandated purchase of unwanted health benefits. Furthermore the legal right of patients should be reinstated so they can bring portable Medicare or other insurance benefits to see any doctor of their choice. These patients could choose doctors they trust and enter into a private contract for their services for a fee that is not covered by the insurance benefits they already purchased. This would enable doctors to spend more time with their patient and ignore the rationing and control protocols that drive up health costs, produce no patient benefit and interfere in the patient-physician relationship. This will allow doctors to escape from the rationing structures established in PPACA and ensure they serve only their patients rather than a cost-saving regimen that will benefit third parties. Patient need to trust their doctors, and that trust will be diminished when doctors are constantly penalized for failing to comply with suspect government "quality and efficiency" standards. Finally, there needs to be a role for empowering charity care at the community level. We know that when prices are driven down by market forces, patients of all income levels benefit. "Affordable health insurance" doesn't come from having the government send a check to an insurance company to pay part of a patient's mandated, higher cost, low-value, nationalized health insurance. Affordable health insurance comes from lower costs that can only be truly created through choice and competition with empowered consumers in charge of their medical spending and decisions in a free market.

Finally, we again apologize for the passionate outbursts at your committee meeting on 12/3/2012 by people who were solely representing themselves. Tea Party leaders in Florida as represented by The Florida Alliance have long rejected organized and planned tactics by groups like Code Pink, MoveOn.org and Occupy Wall Street to shout people down in meetings. Our compatriots were responding from an over-abundance of passion for freedom. They were spontaneously trying to participate in a process that has been frustrating and opaque for years and their response was not pre-meditated and not intended to interfere in your process. However, speaking over a sitting Senator who is using his allotted time to represent his constituents is unacceptable. We cannot allow basic rules of civil conduct to be violated and we will endeavor to ask our fellow patriots to respect the process in ways we ask to be respected as well. We stand ready to assist you in your efforts to protect the natural rights of Floridians protected by the Florida and U.S. constitution to life, liberty and property.

Sincerely,

David McKalip, M.D., for the Florida Alliance  
Tom Gaitens, Florida Alliance  
Kathy Gibson, Executive Board, Florida Alliance  
Pat Wayman, Florida Alliance, Venice 912  
Paula Schaff, Punta Gorda Tea Party  
Karin Hoffman, D.C. Works for Us  
Don Forward, Titusville Patriots  
Sharon Calvert, Tampa Tea Party  
Barbara Knick, Brevard 912  
Carole McManus and Leanne King, First Coast Tea Party  
Walter Hughes, American Citizens League  
Kimberly Kelley and Tim Curtis, Tampa 912  
Tina Woode, Sanford/Lake Mary 912 Project  
Tony Ledbetter, Volusia 912 Patriots  
Bill Landes, Florida Minuteman.Org

Barbara Haselden, South Pinellas 912  
Pam Wohlschlegel, Palm Beach County Tea Party