

## **A Conversation with Senator Erpenbach's Office about the HealthCare Freedom Amendment**

Folks:

I just got off the phone with Senator Erpenbach's office regarding SJR 62. I called this morning but the intern that answered the phone was relatively clueless. I asked who in the office could discuss the status of this bill and he told me Kelly. I asked to speak to Kelly and was told she was not in the office. I asked if it would be best to leave my number or call back and if I should call back, what would be a good time. He asked me to hold and when he came back on he stated she should be back in the office around 2:00. So I asked, She said she would be back around two. He said, yes that is what she said. With that, I told him since she just told you she'd be back at two she must be standing right there. Why don't you hand her the phone so I can talk to her now. After listening to a bit of stammering I told the youngster I'd call back at two and recommended he practice the intrigues of politics if he planned on making a career out of it. Who said you can't have fun with this idiocy.

I called back at two and was told Kelly was in a meeting. At this I asked what time she could call me back and the person on the other end asked if there was anything he could help me with. I informed him I was calling in reference to SJR 62 and would be glad to ask my questions to him if he was qualified to answer them. He seemed to take offense at that, informed me he was Erpenbach's Chief of Staff and could answer any questions I might have. I said wonderful, what is your name. For those wanting Cue Card non-answer answers Tryg, Chief of Staff, is the man to talk to.

The following questions were asked and the synopsis of the conversation follows:

Question: When can I expect to see SJR 62 out of committee?

Tryg: Senator Erpenbach will be studying the historic healthcare bill that passed last night. We do not expect SJR 62 to get out of committee.

Question: I hope the Senator can make sense out of it. Listening to the debates on both sides of the isle last night seems to me that no one really knows what is in it beyond more Government Control. My concern Tryg is more mandates coming out of Washington I am expected to fund. They have about tapped me out. My State, who under the Constitution is supposed to shield me from an oppressive Fed doesn't seem to be doing its job and I see this bill as a step in the right direction. Why is not coming out of Committee?

Tryg: We don't expect it out of Committee.

Question: I don't agree with that but as it seems to be your pat answer, let me ask another. What is the soonest we can have a public hearing on this bill?

Tryg: We don't expect to have a public hearing.

Question: So Washington, which certainly does not seem to have the faith of the American people, passes a bill that a majority of Americans do not support and your telling me that a bill that could do something about it on the State level will not be given a public voice within the State. It seems to me that this is abrogation of the Senators and the States responsibility under the governing structure of our Constitution. Your basically saying that the Feds can mandate it, the State is going to hold me down while they stick it to me and I basically can't have a say in the matter. I'm having a hard time seeing that was what TJ had in mind.

Tryg: We don't expect to have a public hearing.

Question: Tryg, how many calls have you had on this bill?

Tryg: I haven't been answering the phones all day so I would not know.

Question: I would not expect you to be answering phones all day. Hell, you're the Chief of Staff. However, I do expect the office staff to keep logs and have information regarding the public requests for information regarding this bill. How do I get the information on public calls to the Senators office as it relates to this bill?

Tryg: We only record calls from the Senators District.

Question: Let me understand you correctly Tryg. The Senator, as Committee Chair of [Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief, and Revenue](#) has responsibility to everyone in the State regarding this bill. You're telling me that if I do not reside in his district my opinion on this bill is irrelevant and not tallied. That sounds like what Barney's office tells me every time I talk to his staff.

Tryg: What I am saying is that we only record calls from the Senators District.

Question: So let me ask it this way. How do I find out the number of calls made asking for a public hearing on this bill.

Tryg: I don't know that you can.

Question: Why do we have Committees then? Why not just an up and down vote on the floor on every bill so that I could hold my representative accountable if he is the only one that has any responsibility to me. Seem to me like all you political types want to mandate ideologies, call it law and send me the bill but none of you want to be held accountable or answer my questions. Is that about right Tryg?

Tryg: We're not going to have a public hearing on the bill. I have your name and number and will let the Senator know you called.

Question: I appreciate that Tryg. You do that and I'll keep doing what I can on my end. Good bye.

I highly recommend everyone call and introduce yourselves to Tryg and ask him a few questions of your own. Tryg can be reached at 1-888-549-0027.