

18 March 2010

Senator Jon Erpenbach
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, Wisconsin
53707-7882

Dear Senator Erpenbach,

I am writing to you in your capacity as the Chair of the Committee on Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief and Revenue. As such, you represent not just your constituents in the 27th Senate district but all Wisconsinites. So although I do not live in your district, I am affected by the decisions that you make as Committee Chair and therefore I am compelled to write to you in regard to SJR-62, Wisconsin's Health Care Freedom Amendment to our state constitution.

As you are no doubt aware, polling has shown that Wisconsinites are increasingly opposed to the proposed health care bill currently pending before the US House of Representatives. Just last week, the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute released a poll showing that 55% of Wisconsinites opposed this legislation while only 37% favored it. Similarly, the Rasmussen, Gallup and Badger polls show the same trend that the people of Wisconsin are becoming less and less enamored with this bill.

Even the progressive movement has begun to promote the idea of the Health Care Freedom Acts moving through state legislatures around the nation. The liberal Fire Dog Lake blog site has a link to an AP story that highlights the reasoning of the progressives to oppose the bill:

<http://seminal.firedoglake.com/diary/22508>

The objections raised in the article, are sufficient to give pause and reconsider the restructuring of a system into one that uses "the IRS as the collection agency for Aetna." Historically, the regulation of health care and insurance has been the province of the states. Allowing the federal government to assume this power usurps Wisconsin's control of this industry and reduces the state legislature's ability to govern.

I ask that you schedule a public hearing on SJR-62 and take testimony from the citizens of Wisconsin. Allow us our input on the future of health care in Wisconsin and help us to preserve our rights to choose our own health care and to govern ourselves through our own state legislature. The legislation before your committee will not remove anyone's right to participate in a government run health care program if they so desire; but it will make it possible for Wisconsinites to continue to have a choice. We are not seeking to limit anyone's health care options; rather we are seeking to expand everyone's civil liberties in Wisconsin. I ask for your vital help in achieving this crucial goal.

Best Regards,

Timothy J. Dake

Timothy J. Dake
Franklin, Wisconsin