

CALLS INCREASE FOR GOP TO JOIN HEALTH REFORM EFFORTS

As Health Reform Debate Moves Forward, Senior Republicans Continue Calls for Congressional GOP to Shed the “Party of No,” Join Reform Efforts

As Democrats move closer to a final bill on health care reform, more and more senior members of the Republican Party are coming forward to urge House Republicans to support reform. With Democrats well on their way to producing a final bill and the majority of Americans calling for change, will Republican House Leaders finally recognize the urgent need to reform America’s health care system so that all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care? Or will they continue to support the status quo and act as the “Party of no?”

**Oct.
22**



“We just can't be the party of no. Republicans need to offer, based on their own principles, solutions to these problems.”

– Former Gov. Jeb Bush (R-FL), 10/22/09

**Oct.
21**



“[Republicans are] not consistently, methodically, offering positive alternatives...I think the Republicans have done a very good job of being the party of opposition. But they have not yet done a good job of being the party of an alternative.”

– Former House Republican Leader Newt Gingrich, 10/21/09

**Oct.
21**



“Unfortunately, I see a lot of Republicans simply involved in political games. The Republican leadership in the House right now is constantly trying to play a political game to get a headline, and I don’t think that is going to take us anywhere.”

– Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), 10/21/09

**Oct.
11**



“We Republicans need to come up with our agenda and we need to do it so that there is a viable alternative to [health care].”

– Sen. John McCain, 10/11/09

**Oct.
7**



“As some Republican senators have said publicly — that if we kill Obama on this, and we destroy this, and we defeat [health care reform], that will drive a stake through his political heart on this administration. I just find that about as irresponsible of a thing as I can think of.”

– Former Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE), 10/7/09

**Oct.
6**



“Our principal goals, slowing the growth in costs, enhancing the quality of care delivered, improving the lives of individuals, and helping to ensure a strong economic recovery, are the same goals that the president is trying to achieve. I ... encourage our colleagues on both sides of the political aisle at the national level to move forward and accomplish these vital goals for the American people.”

– Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-CA), 10/6/09

**Oct.
6**



“The health-care problems facing this country are urgent and large, and we need to do something about them ... I don't want to miss this opportunity.”

– Mark McClellan, Former Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under President George W. Bush, 10/6/09

**Oct.
5**



“We urge our former colleagues in Congress to work with President Obama and leaders in both houses and both parties to hammer out a final agreement this year based on common sense principles to ensure that quality care is affordable for every American.”

– Tommy Thompson, Former Secretary of Health and Human Services under President Bush, 10/5/09

**Oct.
2**



“I would end up voting for [the health reform bill] ... As leader, I would take heat for it. ... That's what leadership is all about.”

– Former Senate Republican Leader Bill Frist (R- TN), 10/2/09

**Sept.
30**



“I think now is the perfect time to pivot and to say, not only here's what we're against, and not only here's how we're going to contrast ourselves, but here's what we're for.”

– Gov. Bobby Jindal (R-LA), 9/30/09

**Sept.
12**



“‘You give up some things and you get some things,’ Mr. Dole said. ‘If you get 70 percent, that’s O.K. You don’t just put a big ‘No’ sign on your desk.’ The complexity of the health care bill, in his view, provides more options for deal-making.”

– Former Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-KS), 9/12/09