

# **WILL REPUBLICANS ANSWER THE CALL TO REFORM HEALTH CARE?**

## *Senior Republicans Call on Congressional GOP to Shed the “Party of No,” Join Reform Efforts*

More than 100 days have passed since Republican Leaders in Congress promised to produce a comprehensive health reform alternative of their own. With senior members of their own party urging them to support reform 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?”

### **Prominent Republicans Urge Congressional Republicans to Join the Debate on Health Care Reform**

**“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 appreciate his partnership with the states and 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

**“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

**“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](#)

**“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](#)

**“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](#)

**“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](#)

## Media Critical of the “Party of No”

**“As for congressional Republicans, we are not impressed with their bull-headed naysaying on health care. They had plenty of opportunity to reform the system under President George W. Bush and a GOP Congress but did nothing ... [I]s it really in the country's long-term interest to attempt to derail any and all attempts to reform a system that most Republicans agree is broken? We can't see it ... The GOP should put the common good ahead of partisan politics and meet Democrats on grounds of workable compromise.”** – *Dallas Morning News Editorial*, [10/2/09](#)

**“[S]ince the G.O.P. opposes anything that might be good for Mr. Obama, it has become the passionate defender of ineffective medical procedures and overpayments to insurance companies. How did one of our great political parties become so ruthless, so willing to embrace scorched-earth tactics even if so doing undermines the ability of any future administration to govern?”** – Paul Krugman, *New York Times*, [10/5/09](#)