



# All Isn't Calm, All Isn't Bright

*On The 9<sup>th</sup> Day Of ObamaCare, Democrats Gave To Me ... All The Unions Begging*

## OBAMACARE THREATENS A RELATIONSHIP THAT WAS ONCE SO TENDER AND MILD

**In September, The White House Rejected Labor Union Leaders Request That Union Health Plans Be Eligible For ObamaCare's Health Subsidies.** "The Obama administration on Friday told labor union leaders that their health plans would not be eligible for tax subsidies under ObamaCare next year. A White House official said the Treasury Department has concluded that such an exemption is not possible under the Affordable Care Act. The labor unions have been asking that their union plans, known as Taft-Hartley plans, be eligible for premium subsidies the way plans on the new insurance exchange will be."

(Byron Tau and Jennifer Haberkorn, "W.H. Rejects Labor's Bid For ObamaCare Exemption," [Politico](#), 9/13/13)

- **Following A Meeting With The White House About ObamaCare's Negative Effect On Its Members, Union Leaders Were "In No Mood To Talk To Reporters."** "Labor officials met privately with President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and Labor Secretary Tom Perez on Friday afternoon to press their case that the Affordable Care Act will have consequences for the benefits of union employees. ... Union officials emerged from the meeting in no mood to talk to reporters after more than an hour of closed-door consultations with the president and administration officials." (Byron Tau and Jennifer Haberkorn, "W.H. Rejects Labor's Bid For ObamaCare Exemption," [Politico](#), 9/13/13)

*The Obama Administration Offered Unions A Mea Culpa But That's Not A Big Enough Gift*

**"The Obama Administration Is Planning To Exempt Some Labor Unions And Businesses From Paying Part Of A Contentious Reinsurance Fee Under The Health-Overhaul Law, But Unions And Businesses Said Wednesday The Move Wouldn't Go Far Enough."** (Louise Radnofsky and Melanie Trottman, "Health-Fee Proposal Knocked," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 11/6/13)

- **The Guidance Was "Buried In Rules ... Exempting 'Certain Self-Insured, Self-Administered Plans' From The Law's Temporary Reinsurance Fee In 2015 And 2016."** "Weeks after denying labor's request to give union members access to health law subsidies, the Obama administration is signaling it intends to exempt some union plans from one of the law's substantial taxes. Buried in rules issued last week is the disclosure that the administration will propose exempting 'certain self-insured, self-administered plans' from the law's temporary reinsurance fee in 2015 and 2016." (Jay Hancock, "Labor Might Have Just Gotten A Pass On An ObamaCare Fee," [Kaiser Health News](#), 11/6/13)

**Unions Complain That The Recent Rules Aren't Applicable To A Majority Of Their Health Plans.**

"But business officials said the vast majority of their insurance plans wouldn't qualify, and union officials said a large majority of theirs wouldn't either, based on the language from HHS." (Louise Radnofsky and Melanie Trottman, "Health-Fee Proposal Knocked," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 11/6/13)

### **FLASHBACK: 2,255,307 Union Workers Have Plans That Received Waivers From ObamaCare.**

("Annual Limits Policy: Protecting Consumers, Maintaining Options, And Building A Bridge To 2014," [HHS](#), Accessed 10/31/12)

## ***Labor Unions Are Not Happy With Democrats As They Begin To Feel The Effects Of ObamaCare***

**The Relationship Between The Obama Administration And Labor Unions "Has Grown Increasingly Acrid" Over ObamaCare's Implementation.** "As a result of the disagreement over the implementation of the health care law, union officials and their rank-and-file members have been among the most vocal critics of the Affordable Care Act — Obama's signature domestic achievement — in recent weeks. Before the law's passage, unions were vocal supporters. The disagreement has grown increasingly acrid over the summer." (Byron Tau and Jennifer Haberkorn, "W.H. Rejects Labor's Bid For ObamaCare Exemption," [Politico](#), 9/13/13)

**"Labor's Grievances With ObamaCare Exploded Into The Open" At The AFL-CIO's Annual Convention.** "Labor's grievances with ObamaCare exploded into the open this week as officials adopted a resolution harshly critical of the law at the annual AFL-CIO convention." (Kevin Bogardus and Justin Sink, "Administration Rejects Labor's Request For ObamaCare Fix," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 9/13/13)

**The AFL-CIO's Resolution, Critical Of ObamaCare, Conveyed That ObamaCare Would "Drive Up Costs" For Unions And That The Law Is "Highly Disruptive" To Union Health Care Plans.** "The strongly worded resolution says the Affordable Care Act will drive up the costs of union-sponsored health plans to the point that workers and employers are forced to abandon them. Labor unions still support the law's overall goals of reducing health costs and bringing coverage to all Americans, the resolution says, but adds that the law is being implemented in a way that is 'highly disruptive' to union health care plans." (Sam Hananel, "AFL-CIO Steps Up Pressure For Health Law Changes," [The Associated Press](#), 9/11/13)

- **The Passage Of The Resolution Marked "The First Time The AFL-CIO Has Gone On Record Embracing That View."** "Some individual unions have been complaining about the law's impact for months, but this marks the first time the AFL-CIO has gone on record embracing that view." (Sam Hananel, "AFL-CIO Steps Up Pressure For Health Law Changes," [The Associated Press](#), 9/11/13)
- **The AFL-CIO Union Is "One Of The President's Major Boosters."** "The AFL-CIO, one of the president's major boosters, approved the resolution just as the administration began rolling out a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign to encourage Americans to sign up for health care exchanges starting Oct. 1." (Sam Hananel, "AFL-CIO Steps Up Pressure For Health Law Changes," [The Associated Press](#), 9/11/13)

**Terry O'Sullivan, President Of The Laborers' International Union Of North America, Said That If ObamaCare Is Not Fixed "It Needs To Be Repealed."** "If the Affordable Care Act is not fixed and it destroys the health and welfare funds that we have fought for and stand for, then I believe it needs to be repealed," said Terence M. O'Sullivan, president of the Laborers' International Union of North America. "We don't want it to be repealed. We want it to be fixed, fixed, fixed. "We've had our asses kicked on retirement security and we know our health funds are under siege," he added. "We ask the president and Congress to do the right thing for the men and women we represent." (Steven Greenhouse And Jonathan Martin, "Unions' Misgivings On Health Law Burst Into View," [The New York Times](#), 9/12/13)

**Labor Unions, Once "Among The Strongest Supporters" Of ObamaCare, Now Recognize The Law "Threatens To Hurt Their Own Members."** "Labor unions were among the strongest supporters of the

Affordable Care Act when it passed in 2010. They spent millions of dollars in ad buys supporting the bill, pressured wavering Democrats in Congress to pass it, and followed up with support for those Democrats in the November elections. Three years later, union leaders say the bill they fought to pass now threatens to hurt their own members.” (Patricia Murphy, “Obama’s Labor Pains,” [The Daily Beast](#), 9/20/13)

- **Unions Spent Millions Of Dollars To Re-Elect Obama And Help Democrats Retain Their Majority In The U.S. Senate.** “When President Barack Obama pushed his health care overhaul plan through Congress, he counted labor unions among his strongest supporters. ... Labor unions have been among the president’s closest allies, spending millions of dollars to help him win re-election and help Democrats keep their majority in the Senate.” (Sam Hananel, “Some Unions Now Angry About Health Care Overhaul,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/24/13)

**Union Leaders To The Democrat Leadership In The Senate And House: Our Support For You And ObamaCare “Has Come Back To Haunt Us.”** “Like millions of other Americans, our members are front-line workers in the American economy. We have been strong supporters of the notion that all Americans should have access to quality, affordable health care. We have also been strong supporters of you. In campaign after campaign we have put boots on the ground, gone door-to-door to get out the vote, run phone banks and raised money to secure this vision. Now this vision has come back to haunt us.” (James P. Hoffa – International Brotherhood Of Teamsters, Joseph Hansen – UFCW, D. Taylor – UNITE-HERE, “[Letter To Leader Reid And Leader Pelosi](#),” 7/12/13)

**Upset Unions “Could Create A Political Headache” For Democrats In 2014.** “The issue could create a political headache next year for Democrats facing re-election if disgruntled union members believe the Obama administration and Congress aren’t working to fix the problem.” (Sam Hananel, “Some Unions Now Angry About Health Care Overhaul,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/24/13)

- **UFCW Head Joseph Hansen Said That ObamaCare Is Going To Be An Issue In 2014, And Union Members Are Already Upset Even Though The Law Hasn’t Taken Effect.** “What happens in 2014 could be at issue here. ... There is going to be a lot of disenchantment with how did this happen and who was in power when it happened. No matter what I say, that’s going to be there,” Hansen said. “They are upset already and it hasn’t even taken effect already.” (Kevin Brogadis, “Unions Break Ranks On ObamaCare,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 5/21/13)

**Disgruntled Union Member: “I See 55,000 Union Members Voting Republican” If ObamaCare Isn’t Fixed.** REPORTER: “The irony is many union members like these waiting in line for insurance, helped put President Obama in office. The man who led the charge for health care reform.” YVANNA CANCELA: “If ObamaCare is not fixed, it could certainly affect the way we do politics in the future.” UNION MEMBER: “I see 55,000 union members voting republican.” ([KSNV-NV](#), 12/11/13)

### ***Labor Unions Will Face Higher Costs And Fewer Hours Because Of ObamaCare***

**According To A Letter From The Leaders Of The Teamsters, UFCW, And UNITE-HERE, ObamaCare’s Taxes Will Make Union Health Plans “Unsustainable.”** “And finally, even though non-profit plans like ours won’t receive the same subsidies as for-profit plans, they’ll be taxed to pay for those subsidies. Taken together, these restrictions will make non-profit plans like ours unsustainable, and will undermine the health-care market of viable alternatives to the big health insurance companies.” (James P. Hoffa – International Brotherhood Of Teamsters, Joseph Hansen – UFCW, D. Taylor – UNITE-HERE, “[Letter To Leader Reid And Leader Pelosi](#),” 7/12/13)

**Union Letter: ObamaCare Will “Destroy The Foundation Of The 40 Hour Work Week That Is The Backbone Of The American Middle Class.”** “Right now, unless you and the Obama Administration enact an equitable fix, the ACA will shatter not only our hard-earned health benefits, but destroy the foundation of the 40 hour work week that is the backbone of the American middle class.” (James P. Hoffa – International

Brotherhood Of Teamsters, Joseph Hansen – UFCW, D. Taylor – UNITE-HERE, "[Letter To Leader Reid And Leader Pelosi](#)," 7/12/13)

- **Unions To Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) And House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA): ObamaCare Creates An Incentive To Keep Employees Below 30 Hours A Week.** "First, the law creates an incentive for employers to keep employees' work hours below 30 hours a week. Numerous employers have begun to cut workers' hours to avoid this obligation, and many of them are doing so openly. The impact is two-fold: fewer hours means less pay while also losing our current health benefits." (James P. Hoffa – International Brotherhood Of Teamsters, Joseph Hansen – UFCW, D. Taylor – UNITE-HERE, "[Letter To Leader Reid And Leader Pelosi](#)," 7/12/13)

**AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka: ObamaCare Is Causing Businesses To Cut Employee Hours.** AL JAZEERA's LIBBY CASEY: "Richard Trumka, head of the AFL-CIO recently told David Shuster on 'Talk to Al Jazeera' that law is having unintended consequences on American businesses and workers." RICHARD TRUMKA: "The Affordable Care Act does need some modifications to it. Because as it does right now, what's happening is you have employers that the law says if your employees work 30 hours or more a week you got to give them health care. So, they're restructuring their workforce to give 29 and a half hours so they don't have to provide them health care." (Al Jazeera's "[AlJazeera America](#)," 9/2/13)

**UFCW Head Joseph Hansen: ObamaCare "Creates Unstoppable Incentives For Employers To Reduce Weekly Hours For Workers ... Where Many Will Pay Higher Costs For Poorer Insurance."** "But as currently interpreted, the ACA would block these plans from the law's benefits (such as the subsidy for lower-income individuals and families) while subjecting them to the law's penalties (like the \$63 per insured person to subsidize Big Insurance). This creates unstoppable incentives for employers to reduce weekly hours for workers currently on our plans and push them onto the exchanges where many will pay higher costs for poorer insurance with a more limited network of providers." (Joseph T. Hansen, Op-Ed, "Treat Nonprofit Health Care Fairly," [The Hill](#), 5/20/13)