



# ObamaCare Creates An Unhappy Union

*The Strongest Supporters Of Obama And Democrats Are Coming Out Against ObamaCare*

## UNION SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATS AND OBAMACARE HAS COME BACK TO “HAUNT” THEM

**“Three Major U.S. Unions ... Have Sent A Scathing Open Letter To Democratic Leaders” That ObamaCare Will “Destroy The Foundation Of The 40 Hour Work Week That Is The Backbone Of The Middle Class.”** “The leaders of three major U.S. unions, including the highly influential Teamsters, have sent a scathing open letter to Democratic leaders in Congress, warning that unless changes are made, President Obama’s health care reform plan will ‘destroy the foundation of the 40 hour work week that is the backbone of the American middle class.’” (Tom Gara, “Union Letter: ObamaCare Will ‘Destroy The Very Health And Wellbeing’ Of Workers,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 7/12/13)

**Teamsters, UFCW, and UNITE-HERE Letter To Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) And Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA): 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)

- **Unions Are Strong Supporters Of Democrats, Spending Millions To Re-elect Obama And Help Democrats Retain Its Senate Majority.** “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)

**“Labor Unions Are Breaking With President Obama On ObamaCare.”** “Labor unions are breaking with President Obama on ObamaCare. Months after the president’s reelection, a variety of unions are

publicly balking at how the administration plans to implement the landmark law. They warn that unless there are changes, the results could be catastrophic.” (Kevin Brogadis, “Unions Break Ranks On ObamaCare,” [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 5/21/13)

- **Some Unions Are Calling For Repeal Or A Complete Overhaul Of ObamaCare.** “Last month, the president of the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers released a statement calling ‘for repeal or complete reform of the Affordable Care Act.’” (Kevin Brogadis, “Unions Break Ranks On ObamaCare,” [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 5/21/13)

## UNIONS ARE WORRIED ABOUT OBAMACARE'S EFFECTS ON THEIR HEALTH CARE PLANS

### *Unions Face Higher Health Care Costs From ObamaCare*

**Union Leaders Are Now Saying That ObamaCare's Requirements Will Increase The Costs Of Their Health Care Plans.** “Labor unions enthusiastically backed the Obama administration's health-care overhaul when it was up for debate. Now that the law is rolling out, some are turning sour. Union leaders say many of the law's requirements will drive up the costs for their health-care plans and make unionized workers less competitive.” (Janet Adamy and Melanie Trotman, “Some Unions Grow Wary Of Health Law They Backed,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 1/30/13)

- **The Sheet Metal Workers Local 85 In Atlanta Has Said That ObamaCare Will Add “50 Cents To \$1 An Hour To The Cost Of Members’ Compensation Package.”** “Among them is the Sheet Metal Workers Local 85 in Atlanta, which has about 1,900 members. Next year it must lift the \$250,000 annual cap on the amount it will pay for medical claims. The law's requirements will add between 50 cents to \$1 an hour to the cost of members' compensation package, said Randy Beall, business representative and political director for the local.” (Janet Adamy and Melanie Trotman, “Some Unions Grow Wary Of Health Law They Backed,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 1/30/13)
- **The United Union Of Roofers, Waterproofers And Allied Workers Are Calling For Repeal Of ObamaCare As Costs Rise For Their Members.** “A labor union representing roofers is reversing course and calling for repeal of the federal health law, citing concerns the law will raise its cost for insuring members. Organized labor was instrumental in getting the Affordable Care Act passed in 2010, but more recently has voiced concerns that the law could lead members to lose their existing health plans. The United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers is believed to be the first union to initially support the law and later call for its repeal.” (Janet Adamy, “Roofers Union Calls For Repeal Of Obama Health Law,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 4/16/13)

**ObamaCare 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)

**ObamaCare Will Make Union Plans “More Costly To Run Than Traditional Single-Employer Health Plans.”** “The union plans were already more costly to run than traditional single-employer health plans. The Affordable Care Act has added to that cost — for the unions' and other plans — by requiring health plans to cover dependents up to age 26, eliminate annual or lifetime coverage limits and extend coverage to people with pre-existing conditions.” (Sam Hananel, “Some Unions Now Angry About Health Care Overhaul,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/24/13)

**Union Employees Won't Receive Subsidies To Purchase Insurance Like Other People.** “Second,

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millions of Americans are covered by non-profit health insurance plans like the ones in which most of our members participate. These non-profit plans are governed jointly by unions and companies under the Taft-Hartley Act. Our health plans have been built over decades by working men and women. Under the ACA as interpreted by the Administration, our employees will be treated differently and not be eligible for subsidies afforded other citizens. As such, many employees will be relegated to second-class status and shut out of the help the law offers to for-profit insurance plans.” (James P. Hoffa – International Brotherhood Of Teamsters, Joseph Hansen – UFCW, D. Taylor – UNITE-HERE, [“Letter To Leader Reid And Leader Pelosi”](#) 7/12/13)

**The Unions Noted That ObamaCare Creates Incentives To Keep Employees Below 30 Hours A Week, Meaning Less Pay.** “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)

- **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)

**The UFCW Union “Is Very Worried About How The Reform Law Will Affect Its Members Health Care Plans.”** “The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) — a 1.3 million-member labor group that twice endorsed Obama for president — is very worried about how the reform law will affect its members’ health care plans.” (Kevin Brogadus, “Unions Break Ranks On ObamaCare,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 5/21/13)

**UFCW Head Joseph Hansen: “Employers Will Pay Higher Costs” And “They Will Be Forced To Change Their Coverage And Possibly Their Doctor.”** “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. In other words, they will be forced to change their coverage and quite possibly their doctor. Others will be channeled into Medicaid, where taxpayers must pick up the tab.” (Joseph T. Hansen, Op-Ed, “Treat Nonprofit Health Care Fairly,” [The Hill](#), 5/20/13)

### ***Unions Will Be Unable To Keep Their Health Care Plans Under ObamaCare***

**UFCW Head Joseph Hansen On Obama’s “Keep Your Plan” Promise: “[I]s Simply Not True For Millions Of Workers.”** “Unfortunately, what also has become increasingly clear with each passing day is that the president’s statement to labor in 2009 is simply not true for millions of workers.” (Joseph T. Hansen, Op-Ed, “Treat Nonprofit Health Care Fairly,” [The Hill](#), 5/20/13)

- **Hansen: “You Can’t Have The Same Quality Health Care That You Had Before, Despite What The President Said.”** ““You can’t have the same quality health care that you had before, despite what the president said,” Hansen said.” (Kevin Brogadus, “Unions Break Ranks On ObamaCare,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#),

5/21/13)

**The Director Of Health Care Initiatives For The Operating Engineers Union: “We’re Concerned That Employers Will Be Increasingly Tempted To Drop Coverage ...”** “We’re concerned that employers will be increasingly tempted to drop coverage through our plans and let our members fend for themselves on the health exchanges,” said David Treanor, director of health care initiatives at the Operating Engineers union.” (Sam Hananel, “Some Unions Now Angry About Health Care Overhaul,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/24/13)

**International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers: ObamaCare “Is Threatening The Multiemployer Health Plan Coverage Of 26 Million Americans.”** “Working jointly as labor and management through the collective bargaining process, we have strived to offer competitive living wages and benefits to employees and their families nationwide. Unfortunately, these plans are in jeopardy. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) is threatening the multiemployer health plan coverage of 26 million Americans.” (“The Affordable Care Act-Repair And Reform,” [IBEW](#), Accessed 7/11/13)

- **ObamaCare Could “Harm Our Members By Dismantling Multiemployer Health Plans.”** “The IBEW cannot afford to sit on the sidelines as the ACA threatens to harm our members by dismantling multiemployer health plans.” (“The Affordable Care Act-Repair And Reform,” [IBEW](#), Accessed 7/11/13)
- **Coverage In The ObamaCare Exchanges Will Likely “Not Be Comparable To That Available Through Multiemployer Health Plans.”** “Although the exact type of health care coverage that will be available through the exchanges is unknown, it is likely that it will not be comparable to that available through multiemployer health plans.” (“The Affordable Care Act-Repair And Reform,” [IBEW](#), Accessed 7/11/13)

## **THE UNION’S FRUSTRATION OVER OBAMACARE IS LIKELY TO CARRY OVER INTO THE 2014 MID-TERM ELECTIONS**

**“The Issue 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)