



With Friends Like These...

Once Obama's Closest Allies On ObamaCare, Unions Are Now Among The Law's Biggest Critics

AS BIG LABOR MEETS IN CALIFORNIA, A REMINDER THAT EVEN OBAMA'S ALLIES AREN'T IMMUNE TO THE COSTS OF OBAMACARE

Over The Weekend, The AFL-CIO Kicked Off Its National Convention. "As it kicks off its convention in Los Angeles this weekend, the 12-million-member AFL-CIO says it is aligning itself with progressive groups such as the NAACP, the Sierra Club and the National Council of La Raza to strengthen the left's political power. The effort aims to create a strong voice within the Democratic Party while at the same time restoring the power of labor in a country increasingly unfriendly to unions." (Alana Semuels And Ricardo Lopez, "AFL-CIO Seeks Political Alliance With Progressive Groups," [Los Angeles Times](#), 9/6/13)

Obama's Once Surefooted Relationship With Unions Has Grown Contentious Over ObamaCare

THEN: "Most Unions Backed ObamaCare's Passage..." "Most unions backed ObamaCare's passage, but labor argues provisions in the law could cut employee hours, unfairly tax their plans and force workers off their union health plans into the law's potentially more costly insurance exchanges." (Kevin Brogardus, "Labor Union Frustration Boils Over With President On ObamaCare," [The Hill](#), 9/2/13)

- **And Were Amongst The "Strongest Supporters" Of Obama And Democrats.** "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)

NOW: The Hill Headline: "Labor Union Frustration Boils Over With President On ObamaCare." (Kevin Brogardus, "Labor Union Frustration Boils Over With President On ObamaCare," [The Hill](#), 9/2/13)

- **"Unions Are Frustrated The Obama Administration Hasn't Responded To Their Calls For Changes To ObamaCare."** (Kevin Brogardus, "Labor Union Frustration Boils Over With President On ObamaCare," [The Hill](#), 9/2/13)
- **"Labor Angst Over ObamaCare Has Grown ..."** "Labor angst over ObamaCare has grown, with several unions lobbying the administration to fix the law so that union 'Taft-Hartley' health care plans qualify for tax subsidies." (Kevin Brogardus, "Trumka: 'Mistakes' Made In ObamaCare," [The Hill's Briefing Room](#), 8/29/13)

ObamaCare Is Creating 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)

- **Teamsters, UFCW, and UNITE-HERE To Democrat Leaders: Our Support For You And ObamaCare “Has Come Back To Haunt Us.”** “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)
- **UFCW Leader: Joseph Hansen: “They [Union Members] Are Upset Already And It Hasn’t Even Taken Effect Already.”** “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 Brogadus, “Unions Break Ranks On ObamaCare,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 5/21/13)
- **UNITE HERE President D. Taylor: “This Is A Democratic Bill Through And Through.”** “Taylor said. ‘You can’t blame the Republicans on this one. This is a Democratic bill through and through.’” (Kevin Brogadus, “Labor Union Frustration Boils Over With President On ObamaCare,” [The Hill](#), 9/2/13)

Unions Are Becoming More Critical Of ObamaCare As It Is Enacted

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka: ObamaCare Is Causing Business 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 [“Al Jazeera America,”](#) 9/2/13)

Trumka: “We Made Some Mistakes” On ObamaCare. “ObamaCare is a major step in the right direction but yeah, I said, we made some mistakes,’ Trumka told reporters at a Christian Science Monitor breakfast.” (Kevin Brogardus, “Trumka: ‘Mistakes’ Made In ObamaCare,” [The Hill’s Briefing Room](#), 8/29/13)

- **In An Interview With USA Today’s Susan Page, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka Conceded That ObamaCare “Needs To Be Addressed” And That The Administration “Made Some Stupid Mistakes.”** TRUMKA: “The system itself needs to be addressed; we are trying to work that through with the President with the Congress to make sure we that can do things differently. We’ve made some stupid mistakes.” (Susan Page, “AFL-CIO Leader Seeks To Expand Membership Beyond Unions,” [USA Today](#), 8/7/13)
- **Trumka: ObamaCare “Still Needs To Be Tweaked.”** “‘It still needs to be tweaked,’ said Trumka, who pointed to the possibility that union members will lose their health insurance because of the inability of some union plans to qualify for federal tax subsidies.” (Kevin Brogardus, “Trumka: ‘Mistakes’ Made In ObamaCare,” [The Hill’s Briefing Room](#), 8/29/13)

Nevada’s AFL-CIO Recently Publicly Condemned ObamaCare. “The union claims certain provisions of the law would destroy union health plans, making the usual staunch allies of President Barack Obama just the latest Las Vegas union to publicly condemn the health care law.” (Andrew Doughman, “Nevada AFL-CIO Condemns ObamaCare,” [Las Vegas Sun](#), 8/21/13)

In A Letter Sent To President Obama, Laborers International Union Of North America President Said ObamaCare Has “Destructive Consequences.” “In a letter sent to President Barack Obama on Thursday, Laborers International Union of North America President Terry O’Sullivan wrote that the law has ‘destructive consequences’ for the types of health plans that cover millions of unionized construction workers and their family members.” (Kris Maher, “Union Fears ‘Destructive Consequences’ From ObamaCare,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 7/19/13)

- **Laborers International Union President Terry O’Sullivan Said That Costs Were Rising Due To ObamaCare.** “Mr. O’Sullivan zeroed in on some factors that could directly impact unionized construction workers who are typically covered by multiemployer plans. He noted that costs are rising for such plans because of the law’s benefit mandates” (Kris Maher, “Union Fears ‘Destructive Consequences’ From ObamaCare,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 7/19/13)

“Three Major U.S. Unions ... 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)

The United Food and Commercial Workers International 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’ healthcare plans.” (Kevin Brogadus, “Unions Break Ranks On ObamaCare,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 5/21/13)

“UNITE HERE, A Prominent Hotel Workers’ Union, And The International Brotherhood Of Teamsters Are Also Pushing For Changes.” (Kevin Brogadus, “Unions Break Ranks On ObamaCare,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 5/21/13)

- **UNITE HERE Leader D. Taylor: ObamaCare Contains “Perverse Incentives.”** “[U]nion leaders like D. Taylor, head of UNITE Here and former head of Las Vegas’ Culinary Local 226, called the law’s ‘perverse incentives’ that potentially could shutter union Taft-Hartley health plans and leave workers without good health insurance.” (Andrew Doughman, “Nevada AFL-CIO Condemns ObamaCare,” [Las Vegas Sun](#), 8/21/13)

Henry Bayer, Executive Director Of Council 31 For The American Federation Of State, County And Municipal Employees Said That His Union Was “Very Concerned” About ObamaCare. “‘We’re very concerned,’ said Henry Bayer, executive director of Council 31 for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. AFSCME is the largest union representing employees of the state of Illinois.” (Dean Olsen, “Health-Care Coverage’s ‘Cadillac Tax’ A Concern For AFSCME,” [The State Journal-Register](#), 8/25/13)

The United Union Of Roofers, Waterproofers And Allied Workers Are Calling For Repeal Of ObamaCare. “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. ... 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)

Local New York Unions Are Concerned That ObamaCare Will Force Them To Lose Their Health Insurance. YNN’s BILL CAREY: “As 2014 draws closer, unions find themselves facing uncertainty over an

issue that they thought they had resolved. There are growing worries among labor organizations over plans of employers when the new Affordable Health Care Act takes full effect. Just how those companies plan to meet the new law's requirements?" MAN: "Are people going to be able to keep the health care that they have now? Or are a lot of companies just going to pay a fine, pay the nominal fee and let people go out and get their own health care through these new health care exchanges? So are they going to lose the health care they have?" CAREY: "The battles ahead are long term. For this day, labor focuses on its accomplishments and celebrates a day set aside to remember the contributions of all workers. In Syracuse, Bill Carey, YNN." ([YNN-NY](#) 9/3/13)