



PO Box 870 Clarkston MI 48346

March 7, 2012

Dear Chairman Marleau and members of the Senate Health Policy Committee:

The Independent Tea Party Patriots (ITPP) strongly support the concepts and principles contained in SB973, authorizing Michigan's participation in a multi-state health care compact. For many of our over 500 members the event that got them actively involved in public affairs was the passage of ObamaCare, with the many issues concerning individual rights and runaway government control and spending contained in that seriously flawed bill.

We would prefer that ObamaCare is repealed or voided by the courts. Lacking that preferred solution, we support alternative solutions to exempt as many US citizens as possible from that law. The Health Care Compact addresses many of the fundamental concepts that we support.

It reduces the control of the federal government by transferring Medicare and Medicaid funds to the state level, along with control for the expenditure of those funds. For most public programs, we support local control over federal control, as local governments are more responsive to the needs of their constituents, and can tailor programs accordingly.

Fiscal responsibility is one of our fundamental goals. The Health Care Compact eliminates the cost of the federal level of bureaucracy, making the program more efficient. At the same time, getting the federal government out of health care business affords the opportunity to adopt more efficient, consumer choice methods for administering government funded health care programs. These alternatives seem to be hopelessly delayed and influenced by federal level politics. There is a chance that more reasonable discussions can occur at the state level.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, individual and group rights should be protected by the compact. The initial rulings released by the ObamaCare implementation clearly show serious issues with that federal program, and the federal bureaucracy is notorious for being unresponsive. Exemptions for politically favored groups, one size fits all policies, dictating policy to religious organizations, and similar early examples are evidence enough of what the future will bring. Again, we are hopeful that state governments will be more responsive to issues such as these.

We put a lot of effort into tracking the votes of Michigan legislators, and informing the public of those votes through such tools as the ITPP "Scorecard". This is clearly a bill that we support, and strongly recommend that all legislators vote in favor of.

Sincerely,

Ray Hamman
ITPP Advisory Board