

Healthcare

Fred says he opposes the healthcare bill because it costs too much. But does his record show constitutional conservative principles regarding healthcare?

2009 – Supported Massive increase in government healthcare programs

HR 2 (Roll Call 16). Voted again for a bill to more than double spending on the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and raises taxes to pay for it. States could insure pregnant women and children of legal immigrants and families up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. Although the program was designed for poor children, the bill prohibits HHS from requiring poor children to be covered first.

President Bush had twice vetoed this legislation, but when Obama took office, he revived it quickly. This legislation that Fred was an “enthusiastic supporter”¹ of, was Obama’s first major healthcare victory.

In fact, Fred was such a strong proponent that he attended Obama’s signing of the legislation, and issued a press release calling himself a “a proud, longtime proponent” of the program.

2008 – Supported Override of Presidential Veto on massive expansions of government health care

HR 3963 (Roll Call 22). Voted again to override the president’s veto of a bill to more than double spending on the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for poor children but prohibited HHS from requiring poor children to be covered first. The bill included a 156% increase in the federal excise tax on tobacco. ACU opposed this effort to expand government-run health care.

President Bush had vetoed this program specifically because, as he warned, it would pave the way to a nationalized health care system². Despite this warning, which has proven true, Fred was a stalwart supporter.

2007 – Supported Override of Presidential Veto on massive expansions of government healthcare

HR 976 (Roll Call 982). Voted to override the President’s veto of a major expansion of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

The original statutory authority for this legislation was sponsored by Ted Kennedy and pushed by Hillary Clinton as First Lady. Yet Upton remained a strong supporter.

2001 – Supported Massive expansions of medicare Prescription Drug Benefit.

HR 1 (Roll Call 669) Voted for the Medicare prescription drug benefit bill, which marked the greatest expansion of a federal program in almost 40 years. The \$400 billion bill added trillions to the unfunded liability of Medicare and caused millions of seniors to lose their current drug coverage. This bill only passed by five votes. Fred’s was one of those five.

¹ Whorungov.org, http://www.whorungov.com/Profiles/Fred_Upton, publication of the Washington Post

² New York Times – Bush Vetoes Children’s Health Care. http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/03/washington/03cnd-veto.html?_r=1