

Grassroots Groups Reject Final Report Establishing Exchanges

Joint Press Release

Monday, February 27, 2012

Subject: Final Report of the Joint Committee on Federal Health Care Law and
Resulting Legislation

Statement Issued by Oklahoma Grassroots Organizations

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care (PPACA) passed on March 23, 2010, and is generally known as “ObamaCare”.

Oklahomans overwhelmingly objected to the implementation of “ObamaCare” in its’ entirety, including the development of exchanges.

The citizens of Oklahoma believed the lawsuit filed by A.G. Scott Pruitt against “ObamaCare” was a real reflection of the intent of Oklahoma’s leadership and that Oklahoma would not adopt this governmental overreach. The majority of the recently elected Republican officials campaigned on a platform against “ObamaCare.”

Yet, on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 the Joint Legislative Committee on Federal Health Care Law issued its’ Final Report, recommending the establishment of a state-based insurance exchange and the creation of a public-beneficiary trust as administrator.

Both of these recommendations continue to align the state of Oklahoma with the provisions of “ObamaCare” and are contrary to campaign promises, and recent public statements.

Mentioned 278 times in the PPACA law, the exchanges are the defining component in planning and implementing the law—without the exchanges there is no “ObamaCare”.

Committee chair Rep. Glenn Mulready himself has admitted that, “There is no doubt that a state-based exchange falls under the umbrella of federal law.”

The Cato Institute and the Heartland Institute, in addition to numerous grassroots organizations, have told this legislature that the strongest position for a state to take, if they really oppose “ObamaCare,” is to not establish a state-based exchange, or yet another trust.

The grassroots organizations of Oklahoma reject the Final Report and the establishment of either a state-based exchange or another trust. Trusts, unknown to most Oklahomans, can solicit and receive federal grants, and operate without legislative oversight. The trust mechanism is providing political cover for those who wish to look like they’re opposing ObamaCare while actually establishing the means still implement it.

SB 1629 by Senator Brian Bingman is to be heard on Monday, Feb. 27, 2012. This bill establishes a Health Insurance Private Marketplace Network Trust.

We oppose the proposed language in SB 1629, which part of appears to be a re-work of last year’s controversial HB 2130 “HUB” bill that passed the House but was not heard in the Senate.

Jointly Issued by: OK-SAFE, Inc., Tulsa912 Project, ROPE, and other grassroots groups.
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