

John Stuart Edwards

The President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

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Subject: Health Care

Mr. President,

I guess I'm one of those independent's you folks refer to out here – vote both democrat and republican from time to time. Voted for Ross Perot. I did not vote for you, but I did vote for Senator Mark Warner in VA. He's a good grape. Eric Canter is a rock star but I don't get a sense that there is much "there" there (he's my congressman); but the majority of Americans I know have republican values, even many self proclaimed democrats. Some of my friends are true blue liberal democrats but that just makes life interesting. Most folks are conservative in their life and I think that is true across the country. But you should know that, although, I think sometimes you won't admit it.

Anyway, I have an idea and thought I'd drop you a line. Since this health debate is really important - the way I see it; you want to provide insurance to a lot of people that don't have it, and you want to reduce the cost because it is increasing at an unsustainable rate. If true, then I understand that. I must tell you that my wife and I are gold plated platinum with insurance (retired US Marine - Tricare Prime and Aetna private insurance that we purchase to supplement ourselves). You would consider us rich I guess too. So I want you to know that as one of those evil people we'll pay our share – but there's something you have to do. First, I can agree with your goals to expand coverage, reduce cost, and improve the quality of health care. Now I need you to...

Show me the people we're going to insure. I heard there are between 40-60 million. If that's true and there are that many folks out there, where are they? Not the folks that are covered, or the folks that choose not to be covered, just the folks that are not covered and need it. We have stadiums across the country, open them up for a day. Anyone who needs health care should go to the stadium - voluntarily of course. Put doctors who want to volunteer in there. Webcast (allow networks to carry for free) the event and network into every emergency room in the country. Probably cost \$50k to wire them up (I'm using the sensible rate, add a zero or two or three for the government). Or do something else. Show me the people.

While that's going on, show me the cost and how we are going to pay for it. Take as much time as you need, but you can do it along with a couple of your key folks. Legitimate business and technical advisers – not politicians or partisans. Doctors, nurses, administrators, insurers, veterans. Lay it out. Explain the facts. Use powerpoint and flip charts. Show me.

For health quality and automation, I have a position contained in a letter I wrote you a letter in February 2009 addressing both [http://www.johnstuartedwards.com/Files%20for%20Links/Curing\\_our\\_ills.pdf](http://www.johnstuartedwards.com/Files%20for%20Links/Curing_our_ills.pdf) and you responded to me precisely 5 months later in July 2009 <http://www.johnstuartedwards.com/Files%20for%20Links/Obama%20response.pdf> with a form response.

If you can't consider these things then I don't support your position. You see, you might have something good but I don't get it. If it's socialism just say so. If it's not, then show me.

Mr. President, I went to school in Missouri – the show me state. I told you what I need to know. Show me.

Respectfully,

John Stuart Edwards

PS

I sent you an article I wrote during the campaign about reforming the government <http://www.johnstuartedwards.com/Files%20for%20Links/American%20Approach%20to%20Gov%20Reform.pdf> and I sent it to Senator McCain. Neither of you responded to me. All I can say is that if you listened to me then you wouldn't be having all this trouble with the town halls. I just gave you another good idea. What will I be writing to you 8 months from now?

**So, for any idiot out there who is concerned that my address is missing, I removed it before publishing online, along with this statement. The President has my address.**