



**TOMMY WILLIAMS**  
TEXAS STATE SENATOR  
DISTRICT 4

COMMITTEES:  
ADMINISTRATION, CHAIR  
FINANCE  
EDUCATION  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & TRADE

March 16, 2010

The Honorable Michael Burgess  
229 Cannon Office Building

*Michael -  
I enjoyed visiting with  
you at Energy Council.  
TWW*

Dear Representative Burgess:

During the last session of the Texas Legislature it was my privilege to negotiate the Article II (Health and Human Services) provisions of the conference committee report on our state budget. In doing so I have become intimately familiar with the effects that state and federal mandates can have on health care related costs in Texas and to Texans.

I am writing to respectfully ask you to oppose President Obama's proposed health care reform plan as outlined in the President's summary reform document released February 22, 2010.

Recently, the Texas Health and Human Service Commission (HHSC) provided me with an analysis of the impact of President Obama's proposal on our state budget. In a word it will be "devastating."

As I am sure you are aware, our state is in much better fiscal shape than many of the others, however, we are facing a gap between projected revenues and expenditures of approximately \$11-\$17 billion for the next biennium. Health and Human Services expenditures already make up roughly 1/3 of General Revenue (GR) expenditures and are a significant cost driver in the state's budget.

HHSC's analysis estimates that the President's proposal would cost the State of Texas as much as \$24.3 billion dollars over the next ten years. This includes a \$6.0 billion reduction in available DSH funding. Our state can simply not afford an additional average cost of \$4.0-\$5.0 billion per biennium over the ten years it would take to implement this plan.

I appreciate your hard work toward health care reform we can all support. I hope you understand as a member of the Senate Finance Committee who has wrestled with these very difficult issues I respectfully ask you to oppose President Obama's plan because of the fiscal havoc it would cause for the state we both love so dearly.

Respectfully,

Tommy Williams

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