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Perry: Public 'ought to be scared' of Obama reforms

By PEGGY FIKAC Copyright 2009 Houston Chronicle Austin Bureau
Aug. 18, 2009, 9:53PM

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AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry's message on the Obama administration initiatives including health care reform was simple Tuesday: Be afraid. Be very afraid.

Perry's critics said Texas' health care system under his leadership is the real fear factor.

Perry at a Texas Capitol news conference contended federal proposals to fix the health system would cost Texas taxpayers "tens of billions of dollars over the next 10 years alone without significantly improving care for Texans."

Asked about raucous town hall meetings on the topic, Perry said, "Here's the real issue: Americans are scared. I think for the first time in most of our citizens' lives, they're really scared about the future. ... And you know what? They ought to be scared."

Washington vs. Texas

It's a message that fits neatly into Perry's framing of the GOP primary challenge against him by U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison as "Washington vs. Texas" — even though she has vowed as long as she's in her federal post to fight the Obama health care plan, or what she calls "this massive government takeover of our health care system."

At the same time, Hutchison cites as a key problem under Perry the high number of uninsured children in Texas — the highest rate in the nation.

She has been promising to tackle the challenge although she hasn't yet specified how.

State Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso, called Perry's health care record "the worst in the U.S."

Perry said reform efforts are being made at the state level; some ideas would require a federal waiver. Besides an array of white-coated doctors, Perry was backed Tuesday by representatives of the Texas Association of Business and Texas Public Policy Foundation, who oppose national health care reform proposals.

Anne Dunkelberg of the Center for Public Policy Priorities, which advocates for programs for lower-income Texans, said Texas has much at stake with the country's highest uninsured rate and the largest number and percentage of children without health insurance.

"Our deep health care hole means that Texas has the most to gain from health reform," she said.

pfikac@express-news.net

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Deltablues wrote:

Perry says : "And you know what? They ought be scared." Fellow Texans: Please, let's hire a new Governor this election. These old, scare tactics are worn. We need results, not talking points. Seriously. Everyone take a deep breath, put your partisan hat on the rack, and think about solving our problems. Rick Perry might have been the guy to help us at one point, but no longer. We can do better.

8/18/2009 7:50:20 PM

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luckyone wrote:

Perry is right on this one. Obamacare will be a disaster for this country. The Dems plan to ram it through even though the polls show the American people do not want this. Government and Dems know best. God help us.

8/18/2009 7:58:36 PM

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govlaw wrote:

Yup those Republicans like Perry and their insurance company handlers have done a pretty good job of scarin; people into believin' up is down and good is bad.

8/18/2009 7:59:30 PM

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haydukelives wrote:

i am so looking forward to perry being gone; he has nothing relevant to say about today's issues; maybe he can go on dancing with the stars after he's indicted.

8/18/2009 7:52:20 PM

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skinnej wrote:

Mr. Perry, sir, to quote the governor of the great state of Texas when he was stopped by a State Trooper, "Why don't you just let us get on down the road?"

http://www.whorungov.com/Profiles/Rick_Perry

8/20/2009 3:37:03 PM

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TXPatriotGal wrote:


mrjimbo wrote: "Americans regardless of Party don't want any part of blanket Government controlled healthcare system. Democrats have even more to worry about now from veterans. Try the following story in today's Wall Street Journal "The Death Book for Veterans". Ex-soldiers don't need to be told they're a burden to society. You'll need to paste both lines as one into your browser.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204683204574358590107981718.html> "

Mr. Jimbo, thank you for posting this informative article. I have tears in my eyes after reading it. The publication (Death Book for Veterans) is abhorrent and beyond offensive. Human beings should never be considered "disposable". This certainly sheds light on what people can expect with the government-controlled, rationed healthcare. This bill MUST be ELIMINATED.

8/20/2009 8:49:03 AM

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baconwarhorse wrote:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TswMeHnh2cA>

8/20/2009 12:23:12 AM

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Jill_Again wrote:

I am afraid I'll just have to vote against Mr. Perry.

8/20/2009 12:17:43 AM

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svr wrote:

I don't know what all those sissified liberals are moaning about... Under the fine leadership of Perry and the republicans, Texas remains significantly ahead of Mississippi and Haiti in terms of health care. Heck... I think we even make Somalia look like a backward redneck nation. And don't get me started about those socialist European states that provide health care for children and old people !!! can you believe it????After another decade of brilliant Republican leadership just imagine the new highs we can set in 17th century civilization. Makes me proud.

8/19/2009 11:10:26 PM

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