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# Rodriguez: Hispanics stand to be hit harder by the repercussions of ObamaCare

George Rodriguez, Special Contributor

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Published: 8:53 p.m. Thursday, April 14, 2011

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U.S. Rep. Charlie Gonzalez has recently been proclaiming in San Antonio how great ObamaCare is. On the anniversary of the passage of ObamaCare, he said, "Latinos have the highest uninsured rates in the United States, at about 30.7 percent in ages between 18 and 64. In the 20th Congressional District – and remember that San Antonio is 64 percent Latino – we have improved coverage for 300,000 residents under the Affordable Care Act. The tax credits and other assistance have reached 186,000 families and nearly 13,000 small businesses. And we've saved about 700 families in my district from having to file bankruptcy because of the unaffordable health care costs. This is all just in my district; you can figure how this impacts our communities and especially those with a high Latino population. Republicans, on the other hand, are not recommending anything to address the tremendous need for health care reform. Why aren't they doing this?"

Gonzalez has been a supporter of ObamaCare from the beginning, but where he received this economic analysis is uncertain. However, to extrapolate it to the rest of the country and Hispanics as a whole in support of ObamaCare is not only shortsighted, it is patently incorrect. The fact is Hispanics stand to be hit harder than many other groups by the repercussions of ObamaCare for a number of reasons. The three most prominent reasons are their high level of uninsured, high poverty level, and future potential for economic development.

The Hispanic community, especially in Texas, has a particularly high rate of uninsured. The Texas Department of Insurance estimates that Hispanics make up roughly 60 percent of our uninsured population. This is largely because they reside in one of the most heavily mandated insurance markets in America; with every mandated benefit, costs increase. This is a causation ignored in ObamaCare, which mandates health insurance policies more than ever before, and it leaves further mandates at the discretion of the unelected Secretary of Health and Human Services. As benefits are increasingly mandated, cost increases will inevitably follow. This will leave more and more Hispanics unable to afford coverage as Hispanics, statistically, make less money, fall into poverty more often, and are more likely to be unemployed than non-Hispanics.

The Hispanic community, unfortunately, has higher rates of poverty and unemployed and lower rates of personal income and education attainment, statistically, than the non-Hispanic community. This is recorded in numerous Census reports and is undeniable to those affected. ObamaCare does not serve people that fall into these statistics by empowering them in the free market, but instead by trapping them in Medicaid. According to the bill, anyone under 138% of federal poverty limit will be enrolled in Medicaid. This program will give low income Hispanics the benefits of a complicated bureaucracy and access to a third of the providers available to the privately insured. But despite all of these daunting economic indicators, the Hispanic community is showing signs of improvement.

The number of Hispanic owned firms has increased over the last decade, and the median personal income within the Hispanic community has risen as well. Any observer reviewing the facts can see that the Hispanic community is approaching a period of major economic development in the coming decades. Accordingly, the Hispanic community must be acutely aware of the fundamental threat to their private property rights that resides in the individual mandate. As the Hispanic community begins to build capital and wealth, trade ownership, and loan against property they will only prosper in a market defined by clear property rights subject to the

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Constitution above political whims. If the individual mandate stands, allowing the Federal government to require the use of a citizen's wealth for products deemed necessary, it is no longer clear where an individual's property rights begin and the government's control ends. As a community on the cusp of an economic boom, Hispanics must see this as the threat to their coming prosperity that it is, and must speak out against it.

The assertion that ObamaCare is uniquely beneficial to the Hispanic community is unfounded and misleading. The best thing the government can do for Hispanics is repeal this bill and allow us to govern our own affairs, as the Founder's intended.

George Rodriguez is president of the San Antonio Tea Party, and a fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

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**Big Texan** Score: 1

2:45 PM on April 15, 2011 Report Abuse

The comment by U.S. Rep. Charlie Gonzalez says it all:

"The Hispanic community, especially in Texas, has a particularly high rate of uninsured. The Texas Department of Insurance estimates that Hispanics make up roughly 60 percent of our uninsured population. This is largely because they reside in one of the most heavily mandated insurance markets in America; with every mandated benefit, costs increase."

Rather than speaking to the issue of educating the hispanics community to the benefit of insurance and making them accountable for their bills - Gonzalez wants to blame 'the system' for the failure of an ethnic race to be irresponsible.

**Harlow** Score: 1

11:30 AM on April 15, 2011 Report Abuse

George -- you might be interested in a show in Saturday mornings, it's called "Blue's Clues". If you tune in, maybe you too can get a clue. Never before have I seen such a swath of utter non-sense propigated as factual data. You do have a creative writing gift because this article is pure fantasy.

**Jack66** Score: 2

10:44 AM on April 15, 2011 Report Abuse







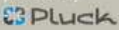
Que lastima Jorge.....clearly you are product of our poor education system...uninformed and fringed is no way to go through life. Hey...has anyone bothered to check this guys citizenship?! tee party? uninformed and fringed party more like it...just goes to show you that he who yells the loudest is heard the most....uninformed and fringed I say!

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	10:35 AM on April 15, 2011 Score: -1 Report Abuse
<p>Wah! Class warfare! Wah! Death panels. Wah!</p>	
	Stud Muffins 8:07 AM on April 15, 2011 Score: 2 Report Abuse
<p>Wow. You know when the nonsense made up word Obamacare is used in a title there will be nonsense in the article body, but there are some world class lies here.</p> <p>Being under 138% of poverty level makes you ELIGIBLE for Medicaid, you are NOT automatically enrolled or required to enroll. You are not trapped. You can still get private insurance. Big lie. Huge lie.</p> <p>The only other content in this trip to wonderland is a call for deregulation of the private health insurance industry. Rodriguez wants to give the industry that innovated such immoral horrors as rescission and denying coverage for preexisting conditions *more* free reign. Both of those abuses are removed by the Affordable Care Act.</p> <p>Then there is: "The assertion that ObamaCare is uniquely beneficial to the Hispanic community is unfounded and misleading." I agree, but the only person saying this is Rodriguez in his unfounded and misleading opinion piece.</p>	
	Mechanic 5:49 AM on April 15, 2011 Score: 2 Report Abuse
<p>This guy deserves to be president of the Tea Party, "The best thing the government can do for Hispanics is repeal this bill and allow us to govern our own affairs, as the Founder's (sic) intended." Does this mean that anything that government does is bad, like Social Security, Medicare, etc? what a nincompoop!!!</p>	
	Nastia 2:35 AM on April 15, 2011 Score: 1 Report Abuse
<p>So it's worse to have Medicaid than no insurance at all? Pull the other one, it f*rts Elvis.</p>	
	anthonyw ing 12:34 AM on April 15, 2011 Score: 0 Report Abuse
<p>I am very thankful for our health insurance, and even more thankful that we found an affordable one through "Penny Health Insurance" online. It has been 6 years that they have not increased my premiums. Having health insurance gives us a peace of mind</p>	
	austingoober 12:29 AM on April 15, 2011 Score: 3 Report Abuse
<p>What a complete NUT! Is this a spoof? Does he cite a single fact?</p>	
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