

The Crisis

by Jeff Ward, IFRR President

Tis the season to turn crisis and tragedy into tyranny. When former White House Chief of Staff (and now Chicago Mayor) Rahm Emanuel said "You never want a serious crisis to go to waste. And what I mean by that is an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before," he laid out the universal liberal marching order. Now instead of prayer, grief, contemplation and compassion as a response to an unimaginable and horrific tragedy, the ghouls of a liberal crisis exploitation machine intend to callously use the death of children as an excuse to strip us of our Constitutional Rights. It is not like they haven't done it before.

Previously, they successfully exploited the crisis in American healthcare (one that liberal government policy in large part created) to create the most intrusive attack on American liberty since the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798: Obamacare. Unfortunately, in Idaho the discussion on the implementation of Obamacare has devolved into a discussion on how to manage "bad public policy." Locked into this line of reasoning, many well-intentioned officials believe we can mitigate the evil, at least locally, by managing it via opting for a state healthcare exchange. If Obamacare were merely poorly written and badly executed public policy, this would be a logical approach. The problem is that Obamacare is not bad public policy. It is, on its face, tyranny.

Taken as a whole, the manifold directives of Obamacare are far more intrusive to the personal liberty of Americans than the Stamp Act of 1765 and the Townsend Acts of 1767, the acts of the British Parliament that motivated the American Revolution. Once federal bureaucrats finish writing the thousands of pages of regulations for Obamacare, I dare say the destructive impact on our freedom will top even the Intolerable Acts of 1774, the tyrannical legislation which directly instigated our War of Independence. Obamacare is not merely a bad law - it is a tyrannical one, wresting from us even the choice of care over our own bodies.

How do you deal with tyranny? There is a simple choice: we can either resist or we can collaborate. Resistance does have a price. It will require sacrifice and a protracted battle for freedom. It's what our forefathers did in 1775. Resistance to the tyranny of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was the crucible that formed our Republican Party and led to the bloody civil war. Resistance to tyranny is never easy, but it is always right.

In contrast, we can collaborate and try to "manage" tyranny by forming an Idaho healthcare exchange in fealty to the strictures of Obamacare. We can try to eke out a little freedom, a few crumbs of liberty, by collaborating and avoiding a federal exchange. It will not work. It has been tried before. 1940 Vichy France or 1932 Manchukuo in Manchuria are just two of the numerous examples of failed quisling states in history. Tyranny extinguishes all local control, uses the collaborator to perpetuate the tyranny and oppresses the people no less than direct rule by the tyrants. An Idaho health insurance exchange will be a collaboration that will provide little, if any, flexibility but will, in contrast, immeasurably aid the implementation and perpetuation of Obamacare here and across the Nation. Reality check: one cannot oppose Obamacare and support the implementation of a state Obamacare healthcare exchange.

I hope you will join me in refusing Obamacare, resisting tyranny and reclaiming freedom for the people of Idaho. Let us actively engage those officials who are misguided into believing we can merely accommodate this attack on our liberty and let us stand against those special interests who would sacrifice our freedom for their own material gain. Let us change the paradigm of the discussion from a bureaucratic management of policy to the sacred defense of individual liberty. We must do so "to secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."