

Sebelius And The End Of Western Civilization

On October 7, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen “no fetus left alive” Sebelius appeared on *The Daily Show*. Host Jon Stewart, despite being a leftist who prefers a “single payer system” (otherwise known as “full blown health care socialism”) to a free market solution to the nation’s health care woes, nevertheless did a decent job of ridiculing both Sebelius and the disastrous rollout of ObamaCare and its web site, Healthcare.gov.

Not everyone noticed that Sebelius also got in a dig, ridiculing every conservative and Libertarian in the nation, as well as some common-sense Democrats who still have an understanding of capitalism and the advantages of a free market over socialism or market-regulated fascism. Sebelius said, “As you know, we’re facing the end of the Western Civilization by having a market-based strategy. We are bringing Western Civilization to its knees by selling private insurance plans on a website where people can pick and choose.”

Sebelius was mockingly suggesting that conservatives should be happy with ObamaCare because the exchanges are “market-based.” That is, however, mistaken. (Well, okay, it is a lie.) The exchanges have nothing to do with a free market. In a free market, insurers are free to sell whatever policies they want to sell and consumers are free to buy whatever policies they choose. But under ObamaCare, insurers can sell *only* those policies which the government approves; Americans are *forced* to buy insurance whether they want or need it; and federal tax subsidies for the purchase of insurance apply *only* to those Americans who buy it via the government exchanges. Thus, the federal exchange provides unfair competition to private insurers who choose not to deal with the exchanges, and that cannot sell policies with prices that are subsidized by the taxpayers. If the system were “ObamaCar,” the government would be selling automobiles that most people did not want; consumers would be forced to buy a car even if they prefer not to drive; the government’s cars would not be available with the wide range of options available in the free market; some people—particularly young people—would be over-charged for the federal vehicles, while others would get massive discounts and rebates paid for by the taxpayers; and no discounts or rebates would be permitted for vehicles purchased outside the ObamaCar exchange. That would not be a free market; that would be socialism attempting to drive capitalism off the face of the earth.) [49444, 49451, 49453, 49454, 49460, 49486, 49702]