

## Suffer The Little Children...

The day after ObamaCare was passed by the House, the Obama administration started a public relations campaign to try to convince the tens of millions of Americans who opposed the legislation that they will learn to love it after they get to know what it will do for them. (Obama's last 14 months of talking about the legislation has apparently not been enough for him to get his points across.)

Obama and the Democrats know that opposition to ObamaCare will be the major focus of Republican campaign strategy, who will promise to repeal the legislation if they are elected. Democrats will respond by charging that the Republicans want to take insurance away from defenseless little children. That, of course, is why the legislation called for an *immediate* requirement that insurance companies accept children with pre-existing conditions.

Although many of the benefits of ObamaCare are delayed for several years because there is no money to provide them, the Democrats made sure to include a benefit few could argue against. (Not that there are not valid arguments against forcing insurers to accept customers after they became ill.) But the Democrats are nothing if not slick manipulators. No one should be surprised to see a Democrat candidate for Congress on stage with a 10-year-old child who has asthma, screaming to the audience of voters, "Can you believe that my Republican opponent wants to take away little Johnnie's health insurance? This poor child has asthma and has difficulty breathing! How low can those Republicans go?"

The Republican candidates can easily find themselves on the defensive because the Democrat defense of a child's health care is an *emotional* appeal, while the Republican defense of individual liberty is a *rational* appeal. Obama political advisor David Axelrod has already said that the Republicans "...wanted to run against a caricature of [Obamacare] rather than the real bill. Now let them tell a child with a pre-existing condition, 'We don't think you should be covered.'" Axelrod and Obama understand that many American voters are easily swayed by emotional appeals—which was how Obama got elected in the first place.

The Axelrod-Obama strategy may backfire, however, if they only find themselves singing to the choir. The Democrats *already have* the support of the people who vote with their emotions, so trotting out sick children may do little but make them look like crass exploiters. If Obamacare causes people to lose their jobs—and there are countless reasons to believe that it will—the newly-unemployed voter will say, "Yeah, I feel sorry for that little kid with asthma... *but my Democrat Congressman's vote for ObamaCare cost me my job!*"

Nevertheless, if I were a betting man, I would anticipate an awful lot of sick children up on stage with Democrats throughout the fall campaign.

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