

From the President:

# Medicine and Education—Two Peas in the Same Socialist Pod

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This will be my last column as president of AAPS. I can only say that the year was fast and furious.

There was a bit of travel, which allowed me to meet a number of fantastic individuals who are a credit to the vision of America our Founders put forth in 1776 and 1787. I want to wish all who have been working so hard on behalf of medical freedom a heartfelt thank you for your efforts. It is only October as I write this, so I have no way of knowing where we will be come Jan. 1, 2010.

It is imperative though, that regardless of how things play out, all of us must continue to fight for liberty, if not for our own sakes, than for the futures of our children and grandchildren. We are in trying times, as many Americans have been brainwashed in government-run schools to believe that the government is their friend. Many Americans naively believe that they are the government. The reality is that the government we are presently saddled with is a monster.

It is a monster made up of the dead body parts of socialism, reminiscent of the creation of author Mary Shelley. In her classic book *Frankenstein*, monster and creator eventually struggle, and Dr. Frankenstein dies at the hands of his creation. We face a similar struggle in America as politicians continue to march us rapidly down the path to the Marxist state they are assembling. They are only able to achieve this because millions of “useful idiots” around the nation, indoctrinated in the process that counts as public schooling today, lack the historical perspective to see the monster they are helping to mold.

No doubt it would take a segment of Jay Leno’s “Jaywalking” to explain this, since many Americans are semi-literate, know little if anything of literature, and may be unfamiliar with Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. Yet, just as the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia led to the creation of the Soviet Union, which ended up killing millions of those who worked toward its birth, we in America are unwittingly trying to recreate this same Marxist horror.

The movie *Independence Day* has an illustrative scene in which the worshippers are on rooftops welcoming the alien ships that are about to destroy them. As the ships open fire, the people look up with amazement and wonder, and then are decimated. These “true believers” have a look in their eyes resembling that of so many millions of Obama supporters. Our legacy will be like theirs if we do not change course.

## What Education and Medicine Have in Common

The similarities between these two enterprises are remarkable, with both being under expansive government control. In essence, the fight for health savings accounts is almost identical to the fight for school vouchers. In both medicine and education, we see third parties take all of our money. In medicine we pay Medicare taxes, income taxes to support Medicaid, and premiums for third-party payment plans that are models of inefficiency and waste. In the education world we pay property taxes locally and see state income

taxes repackaged as school grants to districts around our state. These organizations are also models of inefficiency and waste.

The local “public” schools spend on average more than \$13,000 per pupil, with an abysmal record of success. The local “private” schools spend an average of \$5,300 per pupil and accomplish much more. I will continue to use the terms “public” and “private,” although they should be replaced. What we think of as public schools should more appropriately be labeled government schools. The schools we call private are the true public schools, which anyone who pays the tuition may attend.

Therein lies the problem. Many parents do not have the resources to exercise choice in selecting the learning environment for their children because they have been taxed into penury by an all-intrusive government. What money is left after direct taxation is confiscated by the indirect taxation known as regulation, supposedly passed for our protection.

In the end this creates a two-tiered society, where everyone pays high taxes to support the government schools, but only a segment of the population has the resources to pay a second time for the private school system. In some parts of the country people are allowed vouchers to keep their tax dollars and opt out of the public schools. These parents can choose a school in which their values can be respected, and where teachers can reinforce values in which the parents believe.

Yet this idea of the school voucher is always attacked as taking money away from the public school system. The irony of the statement is that if it is true, then it is in essence a bold defense of the importance of having vouchers in the first place. The only way the public schools lose money is if voucher holders believe that the public school system is inferior, and therefore choose to leave it.

The parallels in the medical world are striking. A third-party payment plan for a family costs about \$13,000 per year, while a true high-deductible insurance plan will cost a family about \$5,300 and accomplish much more. If a high-deductible plan is obtained, the difference can be placed in a savings account to use for the day-to-day purchase of medical necessities.

With a Health Savings Account (HSA), a family will likely have money left over at the end of the year to roll over to the next year. As this continues over time, a nest-egg will slowly grow, which can be used to fund more expensive medical services when needed, while allowing the family to make the decisions. The family becomes the power-broker, as opposed to government or insurance company bureaucrats.

What the Democrats in Washington are likely to create is a two-tiered system of medical care exactly like we have in education. We will see our taxes greatly expand and our quality greatly decrease. More and more people will see their resources vastly reduced and be forced to use the government medical system. Those who are wealthier will use their own money to purchase private care. I predict that if this system is implemented, the politicians, who always exempt themselves from the destructive plans they create, will blame the small remaining private market for the inevitable shortcomings of a government system.

The Democrats will try to eliminate HSAs. The argument will be the same as with school vouchers: HSAs steal money from the government program, just as school voucher programs allegedly steal money from the government schools. I first heard this argument 6 years ago in Washington from a policy aide in the office of Sen. Dick Durbin. Many other Senators of the socialist persuasion can be seen on video making exactly the same argument.

We should fight for school vouchers and for HSAs for the same reason: They keep power and control in the hands of the individual. They take power and control away from the entrenched bureaucracies that produce waste and fraud. If all Americans could keep their own money and pick a school of their choice for their children, we would see one great pillar of socialism fall. If all Americans could keep their taxes and premiums for HSAs, we would prevent the greatest pillar of socialism from being constructed.

### The Implications of Compulsory Health Insurance

In a 1950s pamphlet,<sup>1</sup> the American Medical Association explained “Why is compulsory health insurance called ‘socialized medicine’?”: It is “[b]ecause the Government proposes to: collect the tax, control the money, determine the services, set the rates, [and] maintain the records.” The government would “[c]ontrol not only the medical profession, but hospitals—both public and private, dentistry, nursing and allied professions.” In addition, government would “[d]irect both the citizen’s and the doctor’s participation in the program—through administrative lines from the Government in Washington—down through State agencies and Local committees.”

The AMA also asked whether socialized medicine would lead to socialization of other phases of American life. Apparently, Lenin thought so. According to Lawrence Sullivan in his book *The Case Against Socialized Medicine*, the founder of international

revolutionary Communism once proclaimed socialized medicine “the keystone of the arch of the Socialist State.”<sup>1</sup>

While the attribution to Lenin has been questioned, we do know that socialists have worked very hard for state control of medical care all over the world. In addition, it would not be unreasonable for these same individuals to believe government education is the mortar that holds the arch together.

### Conclusions

Like Shelley’s Dr. Frankenstein, America is in the process of constructing a monster called Marxism. In the book, Dr. Frankenstein tries to control his creature, and failing, tries—unsuccessfully—to kill it. He fails to foresee the unintended consequences of his actions.

We must stop the effort to construct the socialist utopia—now, before the dead body parts can be brought to life. Just as in the book, once the monster is given life, it may be impossible to stop, and in the end it could destroy us.

Thank you to all who have offered kind words of encouragement. I have definitely had moments of weariness and fatigue over the last year, but would gladly do it all over again. I can only hope that we as a society will continue to strive for what we know is right, and that freedom and liberty in medicine, and in America, can be restored.

### REFERENCE

<sup>1</sup> *The Voluntary Way is the American Way*. American Medical Association; c. 1950. Available at: [www.aapsonline.org/brochures/ama-health-insurance.pdf](http://www.aapsonline.org/brochures/ama-health-insurance.pdf). Accessed Oct 25, 2009.

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