

From the President:

Reining in Out-of-Control Government Costs

Tamzin A. Rosenwasser, M.D.

Since 1960 our government costs have been spiraling dangerously out of control. In 1914, the first year of income taxation, the tax produced \$28 million, collected from fewer than 360,000 of 99 million Americans. Federal expenditures in 1914 equaled \$726 million.¹

Things have worsened dramatically since. The average taxpaying American worked until June 11th this year to pay the cost of government, a date which has come later and later over the years.^{2,3} As costs have gone up, government has become more intrusive in our lives, and less responsible in carrying out its core functions of defense from enemies foreign and domestic, and protection from force and fraud.

We have suffered the attack on our nation on Sept 11, 2001, and smaller but still deadly attacks on the same site in 1993, on two of our embassies in Africa, on our ship the Cole, and on the Khobar Towers housing the soldiers who saved Saudi Arabia from Saddam Hussein.

Foreign nationals from all over the world, including nations harboring people who are our avowed enemies and have expressed clearly their wish to destroy us, infiltrate our borders daily and take up residence in our nation, while our elected officials refuse to enforce our laws, and claim that we need these people, without even knowing who they are, and local officials declare their cities to be sanctuaries for people who have entered illegally.

These circumstances have caused educational and medical institutions to become overloaded, and some have gone bankrupt. Social "services," for which we are forced to pay with our tax dollars, are overburdened, and we spend millions on checking grandmothers and even Al Gore at airports, while the borders stand wide open.

Our government has lost computers, with data on millions of citizens, in the face of the nation's most rapidly increasing crime, identity theft, and does nothing but issue empty apologies and offers of a year of credit monitoring.^{4,5} To someone whose Social "Security" number was stolen and used by many people fraudulently, the IRS stated finally that it would not attempt to collect almost \$1 million in taxes, but at first refused to issue the injured party a new SS number.

Our elected officials vote themselves lavish pensions; members of Congress have parking spaces at the airport, a gym, a salon, and generous expense accounts. They travel the world at our expense; so do their wives. Mrs. Clinton, for example, spent huge sums of our money jetting all over the world as First Lady.

Local officials in a number of venues demand to enter citizens' homes to "inspect" them, to see whether the officials consider them sufficiently perfect so that a citizen may contract with another adult party to rent the premises. This is really nothing but a form of stealth tax, not to mention a violation of the Fourth Amendment. State officials float the idea of forcing all citizens to spay or neuter their pets by age 4 months, under pain of a \$500 fine. They attempt to steal citizens' homes from them in order to bestow their property on others,

under color of "eminent domain." These are but a few of the many anti-freedom measures government officials try to force upon us, and often get away with passing into law, usually using some flimsy excuse, such as a desire to assure that we are "safe."

Under the weight of these abuses and usurpations, many ordinary Americans find it difficult to save money, to pay for their medical care, to be responsible for their children's education, and to deal with other expenses. A swarm of officials has been placed on the taxpayers' payroll, for no other purpose than to provide make-work for the officials, forcing citizens to follow hundreds of thousands of convoluted regulations, and guarding against non-existent dangers such as "blight." These officials' salaries provide us no discernible benefit, but merely eat out our substance.

In order to rein in these government costs, which are spinning out-of-control, I propose Politicare. Some features would include:

1. Preauthorization by taxpayers would be required before any legislation involving the spending of taxpayers' money could be considered. Only people who are actually paying income taxes would be allowed to preauthorize such legislation.

2. Government officials would be required to code all interactions with lobbyists, whether in person, or by electronic or other media, and submit them electronically to panels of income-taxpaying citizens, who would then dock the officials' pay according to a simple formula derived from the amount of time spent communicating with the lobbyist, the type of lobbyist, and the damage the lobbyist's special interest has historically done, and might do, to taxpayers in the future.

3. Every government official would have to contribute \$5,000 annually to pay for submitting every piece of legislation to a panel of citizen lawyers and lay taxpayers who have passed rigorous tests of their knowledge of the Constitution and its original intent, as determined by a close study of the Founders' writings. The panel would determine whether the legislation has a basis in the Constitution. If not, it would be stricken from the docket. This process would prevent more un-Constitutional legislation from being passed into law. A second \$5,000 levy would be required of every government official to be paid into the "Government Injury Compensation Account," to indemnify citizens who have been injured by government malfeasance, misfeasance, incompetence, and corruption.

4. Any government official who has been sanctioned in any way, arrested, or complained about in a manner that sounds credible, would be reported to the National Politician Data Bank. Before any politician could be re-elected, or apply for any job, the prospective employer, whether it be the government (the taxpayers and other citizens) or some private entity, would check the National Politician Data Bank to see whether the official were listed there; if so, he would not be allowed to hold a job anywhere in the public sector, or in any professional capacity in the private sector.

5. By Taxpayers Order 13166, all public officials earning more than \$150 per year would be required to have their legislative initiatives, and any and all official documents, translated into ordinary English, shorn of excess verbiage, and certified as

readable and understandable by any citizen who has graduated from high school.

6. Each government official would be required to certify that he has personally read each page of every bill before voting on the bill, with fines of \$250,000 for each instance of fraudulent certification. The officials would read the bills in local public libraries, with volunteer proctors enforcing compliance. There would be examinations of the officials' understanding of what they have read.

7. For necessary trips, office expenses, staff payroll, and so on, a citizens panel would set reimbursement amounts according to ERGs (expense related groups). Any time an official spent less than the reimbursement amount, he would be allowed to keep the remainder, but if he overspent his allowance, the overage would have to be paid out of his own pocket.

8. The number of bills proposed and passed per year would be capped at 15, forcing government officials to make better decisions about what legislation might really be necessary. For any bill above that number to be considered, 10 un-Constitutional, meddling, anti-freedom laws already on the books would have to be repealed.

9. All government officials would be required to take a minimum of 100 hours of Continuing Freedom Education per year, to correct deficiencies in their understanding of the meaning of "a right to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness," the relationship of those rights to other freedoms enshrined in the Bill of Rights, and to correct their neglect of, and ignorance of, the meanings of certain Amendments, especially the First, Second, Fourth, Ninth, and Tenth. Continuing Freedom Education would also address deficiencies in officials' understanding of the difference between a "right" and an un-Constitutional privilege bestowed on some citizens to the detriment of others.

10. Any government official who is apprehended while driving impaired by alcohol or drugs, whether prescribed or not, or who is within 150 feet of any minor who is engaging in underage drinking or drug use, whether related to the official or not, would be arrested by the Booze Enforcement Administration (BEA), which would say that he was not acting as a statesman but just as a common politician,

no better than the Taliban. Then his assets would be seized by raids on his home and office, and he would be prosecuted in federal court, convicted by perjured testimony if necessary, and incarcerated. If it was found that he was convicted on perjured testimony, the judicial system would use the analogy that if a physician mistakenly diagnoses a patient with acute cholecystitis, the patient still must be subjected to a cholecystectomy regardless of the mistake in diagnosis; thus, if a defendant, for example, named Bottschaeffer, is convicted on unmistakably proven perjured testimony, it doesn't matter whether he is innocent or not; he is still going to prison for 6 years. Once diagnosed, or once convicted, it's all the same. It's too much trouble to correct the errors. Oh, I forgot, that's not how we do things in medicine—only in the courts.

This modest proposal would certainly reduce the number of government "public servants" swigging from the trough, and consequently the taxpayers' burden as well. It would also give the remaining "public servants" something to think about. I am not aware of any problems with implementation, or any unintended consequences; therefore, as with comparable legislation already in force for physicians, we need not concern ourselves with such possibilities.

Tamzin A. Rosenwasser, M.D., is a board-certified internist and dermatologist who practices dermatology and is AAPS president. Contact: Podalirios@aol.com

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