

The Valley News

11-14-2009

Facts don't support health-care legislation

Do personal choices and priorities affect what is perceived as “unfair?”

Let's go back to the president's address to Congress Sept. 9, 2009 when he stated that there are “more than 30 million uninsured Americans.” If you were to break down this number you would see that 18 million who are uninsured have a reported household income of \$50,000 per year, and more than half have an income of over \$75,000 (Bureau of the Census 2008, www.census.gov).

I would think anyone could argue that those 18 million made the personal choice based on what they consider a priority not to purchase insurance. I wonder how many of those uninsured own a new car or a 2,000+ square foot home. It also could be worth questioning how many of the remaining uninsured are in between insurance policies due to change in employment or who have recently been laid off or retired and have not yet applied for Medicaid/Medicare? It has been reported that 14 million of America's uninsured already qualify for government insurance such as Medicare but have not yet applied for the benefits. (Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, www.coverageforall.org)

Our Founding Father Samuel Adams warned against such move toward a “welfare state”:

"The Utopian schemes of leveling (redistribution of the wealth) and a community of goods (central ownership of the means of production and distribution), are as visionary and impractical as those which vest all property in the Crown. (These ideas) are arbitrary, despotic, and in our government unconstitutional." (William V. Wells, *The Life and Public Service of Samuel Adams*, 3 volumes, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1865, 1:154)

Call Owens, Schumer, and Gillibrand and tell them to vote “no”—the government option is unconstitutional.