

WE DARE DEFEND OUR RIGHT TO OPPOSE OBAMACARE

The Medicaid Block Grant Compact

House Bill 109, sponsored by Rep. Mike Ball (R-Madison)

Expenses for Alabama's Medicaid program choke up almost 35% of our State General Fund. Even though the Legislature appropriates money to the program, the state has little influence in who qualifies for Medicaid or what benefits they are provided. What's worse, ObamaCare regulations stand to make Medicaid even more unaffordable for our state.

By adopting **The Medicaid Block Grant Compact**, Alabama would become a member state with the Compact. With Congressional consent, the compact would place the authority and responsibility for healthcare regulation to its member states, and would provide the funds to the states to fulfill that responsibility.

By becoming the fifth state to join this interstate compact, Alabama would send a strong message to Washington that demonstrates states can do a better job of efficiently running their Medicaid programs if the federal government would stay out of the way

Summary:

- One of the major difficulties of federally-subsidized healthcare programs is that participating states are left to pay for an expensive program that they can't control. For instance, the cost to fund Alabama's Medicaid Agency totals almost half-a-billion dollars, yet the state isn't allowed to control who is allowed to enroll in the program or what benefits a program participant can receive.
- By adopting **The Medicaid Block Grant Compact**, Alabama would join a growing list of states who are asking to have much more input in how they spend the healthcare dollars that come from Washington. The U.S. Constitution recognizes the legality of compacts, which are essentially any formal agreement adopted by one or more states. Compacts become effective upon Congressional consent.
- When the compact becomes effective, the primary responsibility to regulate health care in compact-member states will rest with the state itself, not the federal government. What's more, member states will still have the unconditional right to federal monies to support the exercise of their authority under this compact. In other words, Alabama will receive a block grant and we will decide how to structure our programs.
- The preliminary estimate of member state base funding level for the State of Alabama is \$13.88 billion.
- In supporting the compact, House Republicans are taking a major step toward lessening Obamacare's impact on our state budgets, and are allowing control of Alabama's health programs to return to where it never should have left.

