

Oh come on. You didn't believe me, did you?

Of course there is no group of uninsured Americans who are against health care reform, no group of kindergartners volunteering to forego vaccinations until congress can reach consensus, no group of low-income Americans who are just hunky-dory with using their local emergency room for primary care, and no group of newly unemployed and uninsured middle-aged Americans who are happy to choose between their cholesterol and their blood pressure medications.

Virtually every opponent of expanded health care coverage already has it. This might be obvious, yet it seems to have been lost amidst all the screaming and shouting from those demanding that health care not be "shoved down our throats." All those talking heads, media experts and politicians in the front lines of the opposition to health care reform are already covered.

*When your stomach is full it's easy to object to having something shoved down your throat.*

I am not saying that some principled and fair people might not have some legitimate concerns about parts of the bill the President is now trying to pass. It must have some flaws and weaknesses. But I am wondering: How much have the opponents of health care reform actually listened to, and taken into account, the views of those who have no coverage? These are the voices have been inexcusably missing from the debate.

So here is what I want to know: If you are a member of congress opposed to health care reform, at least tell me what you have heard from the uninsured about why they don't want or need coverage. I'm quite serious: How has your opposition to providing more Americans with health insurance been informed by discussions you've had with those who don't have it? What facts or data about their lives and their families led you to conclude that it was acceptable for them not to get the insurance that you have?

Oh, and since I probably missed it, remind me just when you met with even a few of these 30 million uninsured people? Say 10 or 20?

I'm waiting. (Cue the sound of a loudly ticking clock)

(Clock continues to tick)

Wait a minute. Are you saying you didn't speak to them?