

In the past few days, White House and Congressional leaders have intensified efforts to pass health care legislation. Their efforts have become so urgent that the Speaker of the House is considering the use of an arcane legislative maneuver to “deem” the Senate bill passed in the House without a direct vote.

This would be an astounding abuse of the democratic process. With one-sixth of America’s economy at stake, bypassing a direct vote dishonors the trust Americans have placed in their elected representatives. Yesterday I joined an effort to stop such legislative sleight of hand and require a straight “yes or no” vote on the bill.

This morning, I spoke about the bill and the process on a number of Nebraska radio stations. You can listen for these interviews on Lincoln, Beatrice, Nebraska City, Rural Radio, Norfolk, and Columbus news stations. I will also appear live today on Lincoln’s KLIN 1400 at 4:40 pm. In addition, you can click [here](#) and [here](#) to view recent speeches outlining some of my deep concerns about this legislation.

No one disputes the diagnosis — our health care system must be strengthened. We need the right kind of health care reform that lowers costs, improves health outcomes, and protects vulnerable persons. However, this bill substantially shifts costs to more unsustainable government spending and erodes health care liberties. I cannot support it.

At this time, it appears the House of Representatives will address the health care legislation sometime this weekend. Thank you for your continued interest and input. As always, please contact my office to share your thoughts and ideas.