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How would you dislodge the stalemate in Congress over healthcare?

My father was a physician. Like Dr. Kathie Allen, my first job was cleaning my dad's office. That office was in our home - a house that had been designed by another physician in the 1940s as a home/office. When I asked my dad years later why he didn't move into the office complex across from the hospital, he said: "I wanted to pass the savings from my low-overhead along to my patients."

My oldest daughter is also an MD. Currently in her last year of residency training before beginning her career. There's no way for her, given today's government-imposed regulations to operate as a small business person in the way her grandfather did.

When my dad retired he told me, "I've been turned into a half-time physician and half-time accountant for the federal government."

That is the core symptom of why healthcare costs are so excessive - Government inappropriately controls our healthcare in many ways:

Government and a handful of insurance companies have a virtual monopoly as payers. Because of this, they make most of the decisions about what kinds of healthcare are available.

Government regulates where, when, and who may open new healthcare facilities.

Government agencies greatly slow development of and access to new medicines, devices, and technologies that may improve quality of care and reduce cost of care.

Currently, the healthcare industry is virtually monopolized by the government and a handful of insurance companies. They hold the checkbook and wield it for their own benefit.

Each year, the government sets prices that they will pay providers including doctors and hospitals. Each year, these payments increase at less than the cost of inflation, while the cost of providing medical care increases by a far greater amount. This has unpleasant consequences for everyone. Providers are incentivized to do what is quick and cheap, not what is in the best interest of a particular patient. Doctors are forced to reduce the time they spend with patients, and this reduces quality of care. Hospitals are discouraged from upgrading facilities, and this reduces quality of care. Worse yet, insurance companies often set their payments according to the government's prices. This regular ratcheting down on payments to providers, while actual costs to provide care increases, makes providers less able to provide high quality healthcare.

Government also regulates where medical facilities can be built, who can build them, and when. The process for applying for permission to build facilities is very costly and very slow, thus it favors the biggest corporations and prevents smaller organizations from opening new facilities that could serve patients. This greatly limits patients' access to medical care and increases costs compared to a system where government permission was not required.

Institutions such as the Food and Drug Administration also limit cost-effective access to quality care. The approval processes for new drugs and technology is lengthy and expensive. Because of this, the process favors the biggest companies with the most lawyers. There are many stories of patients dying while waiting for approval of a new device or medicine. Instead, Libertarians call for free-market testing which will be inherently incentivized to be efficient and fair in their

processes. Additionally, Libertarians believe in the “Right to Try”, especially in situations with a terminal diagnosis. The government must not be permitted to deny patients access to new medical advances.

Tort reform would also greatly reduce the cost of health care. The current tort system raises the cost of care by encouraging unnecessary testing and procedures which increase the cost of medical care by forcing medical teams to devote significant time and resources to preventing or defending against unwarranted legal actions. When legitimate claims arise, they should be taken seriously and resolved fairly through the courts. However, frivolous and fraudulent claims should not be tolerated, as our current system does. These disparage our healthcare providers and the quality of medical care they can provide and that we can receive. Libertarians oppose fraud in all forms.

In short, Libertarians believe that each person has the right to make their own medical decisions. Libertarians support removing government meddling from healthcare. We think this and tort reform are the best ways to improve quality of healthcare, increase access to healthcare, and decrease prices of healthcare in our country.

Should current campaign finance laws be revised? Why or why not?

First and foremost we must have 100 percent transparency on how campaign donations are spent by the candidates; and on what political favors those donations may later gain for the donors.

However, the only long-term solution to campaign finance reform is ending the power of politicians to dole out federal funds, regulatory relief, or other benefits to donors. That is the root of the problem, and more laws and regulations around how money can be donated - the progressive agenda on this issue - only strike at the symptoms of the issues, not the cause. Each of the two old-party candidates will spend well over a million dollars on this Special Election. Much of those funds, if not most, will have been donated by individuals who expect something in return. The solution - stop the massive transfer of wealth that draws them like a moth to a flame - or like donor dollars to

old party candidates.

As a Libertarian raising only a tiny fraction of that amount, it should be clear I am not for sale; will not be owing any favors to the big donor class. But beyond that I am calling for an end to the more than \$3 trillion in federal goodies that those donors seek.

Realize first that that kind of money would not be flowing into the political system if there was not a positive return on investment for those contributors.

Once federal spending has been reduced dramatically (end the Racist, Failed "War on (otherwise innocent/non-violent people who have used) Drugs, close the vast majority of our 1,000 military bases and ship and troop deployments around the world, cut the ability of politicians to pay back their political donors and the we could easily utterly abolish the federal income tax.

What can Congress do to ensure that all children, regardless of economic status, have access to quality education? What is the proper role of the federal government in education?

There is no proper role of the federal government in education.

Congress can end the Department of Education and return authority to local governments to manage public schools.

That said, what gives each child today the best opportunity for a real education is access to the Internet, the Khan Academy, YouTube, Wikipedia and the unprecedented rich educational environment that has been created, not by government, but by private enterprise.

Our public schools are structurally broken and apparently incapable of change. Education occurs not in collectivist groups of 30 or more students being marched along at the same pace - but in *individually delivered,* *self-paced,* *competency-based* environments. What is missing in public education is not "dollars" it is ""*desire*." A desire to learn, deep in the student's heart, and one that becomes a life-long activity and not something to be endured in a mind-numbing, pro-government-biased, prison-like building for 12 years. (While there are

many wonderful public schools here in Utah, and our four children benefitted from them, I speak here of the terror of most of America's inner-city schools; as well as, even in our best schools, of the mind-numbing pace of collectivized delivery of education to groups of 30 or more.)

Earlier today I read the following article (which was released a few days before its 11 Sept publication date).
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2017/09/11/inspirational-robots-begin-replacing-teachers-within-10-years/>

Hope is coming for our youngest learners, but it isn't coming from the kind of massive reformation of our 100 year old method of public education.

Tax reform will be brought before Congress. What are your priorities?

Balancing the federal budget. Reduction of the \$20 trillion in federal debt. Greatly reducing the 1,000 military bases and troop deployments we have around the planet. Ending the failed, costly, racist war on "drugs" - a war that is really on people and patients; and on our pocketbooks.

Libertarians stand for the non-initiation of aggression. What in political philosophy is called the NAP, or Non-Aggression Principle. You don't have the right, no matter how good the end might seem, to take from others their justly acquired product of their labor. Government has that power - and right now the US government in all its forms takes about 50 percent (federal, state, local; income, sales, property; taxes, user fees and occupational licensing). That burden is a huge drain on our economic activity. By reducing tax rates and other unneeded government burdens the economy will grow and total revenues will rise - even with lower rates. Presidents Kennedy and Clinton proved this (under President Reagan lower rates were overwhelmed by increased Congressional Spending).

Bottom line: Taxation is theft and we need to move to a society where charity and voluntary giving replace government force and threat of punishment. It won't happen in my lifetime, but if we do not start moving in that direction now - a direction of less government forced

taking, a balanced budget (no more deficit financing - pushing the bills for our spending onto our children and grandchildren) and a growing economy and more local, voluntary giving - we will be doomed to the same state of affairs that has wrecked every other forced socialist system in history. From Orderville here in Utah, to the USSR, to Venezuela today.

A draft report produced by 13 federal agencies calls the long-term evidence that global warming is being driven by human activities "unambiguous." What are the most effective ways to meet the challenges of climate change?

Free the free markets to develop real green energy and end the liability caps, tax breaks, exploration subsidies and other benefits government has given to big oil.

This question may not seem related to campaign finance reform - but it is. Big oil (and big med/big pharma, big agriculture) have purchased our representatives. The bulk of the big money comes from big donors and these are among the biggest (along with the war-driven military-industrial complex that President Eisenhower warned us about).

The US government itself is the biggest contributor to environmental pollution on this planet. Our military footprint has an even bigger carbon footprint; our nation has dropped a bomb or more at least hourly, 24/7 for the past decade or so. Our nuclear weapons research and power plants are sitting on an environmental disaster of waste fuel and byproducts that is the equivalent of a ticking time bomb for our nation. We need to create long-term, safe storage for that waste, before an earthquake, or other natural disaster creates a Fukushima or Chernobyl event here.

Obviously climate change is a global issue - and the USA represents about 5 percent of the world's population. 95 percent of humans will do whatever they want without any ability of the US government to tax, regulate or otherwise manage their activities.

So we must free our industries, our inventors, our entrepreneurs to develop new green energy sources, and pollution cleaning technologies - from which they should have the right to profit from their innovation and risk taking. Taxing such activity is the equivalent of putting the brakes on it; and the exact opposite of what our government's policy should be.

How do you balance concerns about voting security against limiting the right to vote?

Libertarians oppose force and fraud in all its forms (see the discussion of the NAP principle above). Those who commit voter fraud have committed a crime deserving of punishment. But the bigger issue is not voter fraud, it's the apparent inability of our government to maintain accurate voter registration lists.

Just like Campaign Finance Reform, transparency is the initial solution. Voter registration lists should be available for review by candidates and their committees, as well as the media and members of the public. The process of counting and reporting votes should likewise be fully transparent.

Where fraud is discovered it should be prosecuted.

What we do not need are more laws, or more regulations to prevent crime - we need a competitive and transparent environment - like most of our other social ills THAT (more liberty, more transparency, more competition) is the lowest-cost, most effective, least violent, best way to govern ourselves.

It is, or at least was, what was meant in the past by, "The AMERICAN way."