

## LETTERS TO U.S. SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR (D-MN)

*Citizen Response to Sen. Klobuchar's Plan for a "Tele-Town Hall"*<sup>1</sup>

**August 2009**

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**D&C**  
[address]

August 22, 2009

Senator Amy Klobuchar  
1200 Washington Ave. S.  
Suite 250  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

Re: Healthcare tele-town meeting

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

My wife and I will not be participating in your tele-town meeting on Aug. 23. We are extremely disappointed that you have chosen such an impersonal forum dealing with such an important issue as healthcare reform. The current healthcare reform legislation will affect all Americans for many years to come so we need to do it right. Having a telephone conference call where we just get to "listen" to 2 professional supporters say whatever you want them to say is not being responsive to us citizens.

As I see it, this type of conference call (you can call it a tele-town meeting or whatever you want) is nothing more than avoiding standing up to listen to my concerns and the concerns of the citizens of Minnesota. I don't need to listen to some bureaucrat (you said Mary Wakefield the highest ranking nurse in the federal government will be on the call) telling me about healthcare. I want you to listen to my concerns, not what the government thinks. I also want the opportunity to listen to what my fellow citizens have to say and what their concerns are. Only a live, in person meeting can do this. We want you to listen to us and our concerns – and not listen to bureaucrats tell us how the

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<sup>1</sup> *All full names and identification have been removed to protect privacy.*

government is going to make healthcare better. I have some real concerns that I want you to know about and I want you respond to these concerns personally.

I find it inexcusable that you have chosen such an impersonal and unresponsive format to address such an important and critical issue as healthcare reform. And to put it off until the very end of August tells me that you have no intention of allowing me as a citizen of Minnesota to personally address you on this important matter. I appreciate your invitation to participate in the tele-town conference call but I reject this as an unacceptable way in which to voice my concerns to you. Please let me know when you will schedule a REAL town hall meeting where I can participate, let my concerns be known, and listen to the concerns of my fellow citizens. I believe that you owe this to us as your constituents and as citizens of the State of Minnesota.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

D&C

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August 21, 2009

Senator Klobuchar:

Just some quick questions if I may.

How will you pay for this program? What will it cost in the next 40 years? Please document on paper and show us. For a business to be successful they must budget and provide a forecast. Please do that for us as it pertains to the healthcare proposal.

Who will determine what level of care I need? Will there be a panel of doctors, residing in Washington? And what right do they have to make that determination?

The government couldn't manage the Cash for Clunker program, can't manage welfare, can't manage social security, and can't manage Medicare. And the list goes on and on and on. Yet government proposes they can manage something as huge as

this? The audacity of public officials continually astounds me, and I believe most average Americans.

Will illegal immigrants be covered? And if yes, forgive me, why? And if so, what is the additional cost?

I could continue to go on with this, but I won't. But I will leave you with this question. Where in the constitution, and when did the founding fathers suggest, that we as people are guaranteed healthcare?

I guess government today knows far more than they did back then.

Respectfully,

KA  
[address]

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August 20, 2009

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

We are two of your constituents. We are in our sixties and are small business owners. We have worked extremely hard all of our lives – paid taxes and followed the laws of this great country.

Because of previous health issues, I am on Minnesota Comprehensive Insurance. I pay almost \$600 a month in premiums and carry a \$2000 deductible. So, you can do the math and figure out how much I pay out of my pocket in a year. We pay property taxes on our commercial property and on our home. There is no cap on how much commercial taxes can be raised and the past couple of years have hit us hard. We pay these huge health care costs and taxes gladly and willingly. We do not want more government involvement in our lives.

When we first saw the diagram for the government health care takeover, we thought it was a joke. Who has ever heard of the government running anything efficiently? The programs that have government involvement (i.e. Social Security, Medicare, the post office, border protection, bailouts) are in serious trouble.

No one can even come up with an accurate number of uninsured Americans. No U.S. citizen should EVER have to pay a penny to take care of people who are here illegally – whether that is anything from healthcare to education. And isn't it an individual's right to choose not to carry insurance? The real number of non-insured CITIZENS is much

smaller than what the Democrats keep stating. Instead of Cash for Clunkers, the government could have bought private insurance for these people!

I have taken time out of my work day twice in the last month and have come to your office. You have not been there either time. I think you owe it to the people who pay your salary to meet face to face.

Sincerely,

C&J  
[Address]

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Ms. Klobuchar (Bessler)

I have been sending you email since you took office, as you know. I have been complaining for what seems forever at your insistence to work for Obama rather than your constituents. You happily just helped put an obvious racist over us on the Supreme Ct. Certainly you would want to come home and take your bows – right? And you squeal with delight at every socialist idea Obama can come up with and run to vote for it as if you had no mind of your own and no constituents to answer to. I would think you would want to hold a real town hall meeting where we can actually look each other in the eye and discuss the issues face to face, since you are so happy with your actions on behalf of MN.

Instead, you send me an "invitation" to make discussing the issues impossible by holding a town hall charade "by phone" that allows you to hold a contrived meeting that you can totally control – questions and all – while hiding from us at the same time! Why are you afraid to talk to us? It is obvious to me that you are ashamed of your actions rather than to be proud of them – or you would face your constituents to tell us all about the great accomplishments you've made on our behalf.

I am guessing that you aren't working for us so much as the far left part of the democrat party, including Obama and his henchmen, Axelrod and Emmanuel. In fact, you seem to be taking on a "let them eat cake" attitude insofar as "we the people" are concerned. Make sure you have enough far-left votes to win again because I doubt you will have many more than they provide – unless ACORN does the counting again, as happened with the stolen election our democrats helped push through to replace our senator with a clown who will vote as told – since he knows nothing but hating traditional Americans. Certainly, this fool

must be at the bottom of people with no experience in our government. Our state was never less represented than it is now.

Since you refuse to meet with the people you pretend to represent, to discuss spending another sixth of our budget on yet another entitlement, I guess we'll see you when you ask for votes and money from us again instead.

Your constituent,

PK  
[city,state]

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Ms. Klobuchar,

I'm writing to let you know I find it an appalling act of cowardice to be running your "town hall" meeting as a teleconference. Town Hall meetings, by their very nature, are intended to let people speak freely, ask the questions they want to ask, and challenge or support their elected officials in an open forum. It should be embarrassingly obvious to you that changing the format to a teleconference does nothing but signal to your constituents that you are afraid of facing the public on this issue. We know you'll screen the questions in advance. You'll select only the ones which don't point out the obvious flaws of the proposed government healthcare plan. And you'll prepare your answers well in advance. You might even select a few that sound challenging just to create the appearance of open dialogue. Most importantly, you get to silence the dissenters with this format. How convenient and how cowardly. Why not just make this all easier for everyone and write the questions yourself, script it all out so you can control the dialogue completely. Cardboard cutouts would be sufficient for an audience. Otherwise, friends and family would suit too. This isn't democracy. This is blatant manipulation and cowardice. You should be embarrassed to be hiding during a debate on one of the most important issues this country faces in our lifetimes.

T.  
[City State]

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1200 Washington Ave. S, Ste 250  
 Minneapolis, MN 55415 <http://klobuchar.senate.gov/contactamy.cfm>  
 August 21, 2009

Senator Klobuchar:

I am extremely disappointed that you are not willing to schedule a town hall meeting so that you can meet your constituents and hear from those you work for. I called your office at the beginning of the recess only to find out that you were only planning on having a "tele-town-hall" meeting. How can you possibly get a true sense of how we feel through a phone cord? Here are several reasons I will not be attending:

- I want to be able to ask you a question and know that you are giving an immediate, unscripted response. It would be quite easy for you to have a list of prepared responses or even avoid any questions that are controversial. Without being there in person, how are we assured that you are taking ALL calls and not screening ANY calls?
- I want to know how many are attending and that all people in attendance have an opportunity to speak if they choose. The number of people calling in to this type of meeting does not equate to the actual number who participate.
- I want to be able to respond to other's comments, questions, etc. through clapping or voicing opposition. You will have no way of knowing how the rest of us feel with this type of format.
- I want anyone who wants to be able to carry a sign stating their position so you can "hear" from everyone either through their signs or their voices.

As our representative in the Senate, I am confused why you would choose this impersonal format. I don't understand why you are avoiding meeting us face to face and being able to address our concerns personally. Isn't that the least you can do for those whom you claim to represent? You were certainly willing to stand in front of all of us when it served your purposes of trying to get elected!

I will NOT be "attending" the tel-town hall meeting and am requesting that you schedule a REAL town hall meeting. Please let me know when and where this is scheduled so I may participate.

[No Name]

Senator Klobuchar:

I would like to express my disappointment with your offer to have a tele-town meeting with your constituents in a way in which you will not have to see anyone and can pick and choose from recordings the questions that you want to answer, and all the while all we get to do (your constituents) is just listen to you and your professional supporters say whatever you want. You call this a "a Live Health Care Discussion". It is not. It is a live Health Care Listening session in which you get to speak and we get to listen. An authentic town meeting would be where we speak and

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you listen.

This is not acceptable to me or to many others of your constituency, since I believe that you owe us

the courtesy of being able to stand up before you in person to express our

opinions of this health care "plan" is a right we should have as your constituents.

I spoke with someone in your office and was appalled when told that he didn't know your

schedule of availability for a REAL town hall meeting. Your inability to accomodate

that is inexcusable. You have only a few days time in your district and not to be able

to schedule such events months in advance only tells me that you had no intention of

allowing us to be able to personally address you on the things that we have

questions about. I appreciate your invitation to participate in the tele-town

hall, but reject that as an unacceptable way have you address my questions.

Please let me know when and where I may participate in a personal

town hall meeting. You owe us that. Thank you.

Sincerely,

JS

Senator Klobuchar:

As a hard working tax-paying citizen of Minnesota, I am extremely disappointed in your decision to hold a tele-town meeting regarding health care in lieu of an actual Town Hall event. The voters of Minnesota elected you to your position and the least you could do is meet your constituents face to face, no matter if they agree with you or not on the issues.

Americans are tired of our elected officials (both Democratic & Republican):

skirting the issues, or out-right lying about them

avoiding answering REAL questions from differing points of view (not staged, rehearsed hand-picked questions from a few supporters)

blaming "the other party" for everything

only caring about themselves and their cronies, instead of the people they actually serve

This tele-town meeting is just another disregard for the will and right of everyday Americans to assemble in a public forum to be seen and heard by the people they elected to represent them. These ploys to silence real opinions and views that differ from those in office are UN-AMERICAN. I appreciate your invitation to listen to you and your friends speak...but do not feel that it is the proper way to address these issues and is an unacceptable way to conduct the American political process.

Thank you for your time,

TR

[City, State]

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August 21, 2009

Senator Amy Klobuchar

1200 Washington Ave. S, Ste 250

Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

Thank you for informing me about your tele-town meeting on Sunday evening, but I will not be planning to attend. I want you to know about my disappointment that you have chosen this approach over an open meeting in which you could and would actually listen to the heartfelt concerns of your constituents. I am not really surprised by this and it is “true to form” based on your response to my previous letters as well as to letters of acquaintances.

This affords you the freedom to craft your message and your position to fit your agenda. It will be a well rehearsed production complemented with commentaries by your panel of experts who seem to know what’s best for us.

Meanwhile, I still await a response to my last letter in which I ask how and why abortion is considered a health care benefit and why compelling me to pay for abortion on demand does not violate my right of conscience.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns albeit not in the kind of forum I would have preferred.

NT  
[address]

I regret that another unforeseen event will keep me from participating in the Health Care Forum Sunday evening. However, I would like to express a couple points for inclusion in the forum.

1. I believe that it is important that Tort Reform be included or addressed in any Reform measure. The cost of medicine is driven by Doctors having to insure themselves against Lawsuits, many of them frivolous.
2. I believe that if my Senator and representatives believe so strongly in the merits of this bill they need to support a law that will put them in the same program as the citizens who are going to be required to pay for this bill.
3. I am a senior, and concerned with the death panel clause. I know you are thinking that this is some nut who hasn't heard that this is removed. Well this nut has never believed that there was a "Death Panel" but having said that it is tantamount to the same when you have bureaucrats making medical decisions based on cost and or age of a patient.

Respectfully,  
DH  
[address]

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Senator Klobuchar---

I FULLY agree w/ my fellow constituent, and endorse his letter to you, below!

Even Arlen Specter had the decency to give his constituents the face-to-face meetings they deserve, even though he knew he was going to face some dissenting opinions during those meetings, and I respect him for that (even if IT IS HIS JOB AS SENATOR, to do just that)!

Don't pass up the chance to earn your constituents' respect in a similar fashion, Senator--don't disrespect us by "phoning it in"! We'll remember that in Nov 2012.....!!

-----MC [address]

Senator Klobuchar:

I have just called your Minneapolis office and expressed my disappointment with your offer to have a tele-town meeting with your constituents in a way in which you will not have to see anyone and can pick and choose from recordings the questions that you want to answer, and all the while all we get to do (your constituents) is just listen to you and your professional supporters say whatever you want. You call this a "a Live Health Care Discussion". It is not. It is a live Health Care Listening session in which you get to speak and we get to listen. An authentic town meeting would be where we speak and you listen.

I have expressed to your office person that this is not acceptable to me or to many others of your constituency, since I believe that you owe us the courtesy of being able to stand up before you in person to express our opinions of this health care debacle that you legislators are trying to foist off on us. I believe that we have the right to be able to do that in person and your inability to accomodate that is inexcusable. Your telephone person explained that he did not know your schedule for having such a personal town meeting, and that in itself is inexcusable. You have only a few days of time in your district and not to be able to schedule such events months in advance only tells me that you have no intention to allow us to be able to personally address you on the things that we have concern over. I appreciate your invitation to participate in the tele-town hall, but reject that as an unacceptable way in which to voice my concerns to you. Please let me know when and where I may participate in a personal town hall meeting. You owe us that. Thank you.

DH [no address]