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Inglis faces rowdy crowd at meeting

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U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis faced a hostile crowd of more than 350 people Thursday night at the Upstate Family Resource Center in Boiling Springs during a town hall meeting to discuss health care reform.

The loudest part of the crowd seemed to have its mind made up before Inglis even began talking scolding him and applauding anyone who referenced the Constitution or denounced socialism. A man against the wall held a sign that stated Congress & CNN have awakened a sleeping giant.

One man stood up, said he considered himself a mainstream conservative and said, "I look at the government, and they're so far outside the Constitution and there's not a week that goes by that I don't hear talk about revolution in our country. The only one I know in Congress who abides by our Constitution is Ron Paul."

A standing ovation followed.

Another man stood up in support of the health care reform being pushed by President Barack Obamas administration and was ridiculed.

As the night progressed, the level of shouting seemed to subside - or at least it was more spread out - and Inglis won applause for advocating medical liability reform.

All of this took place despite Inglis saying repeatedly that he was against the current health care bill. His office sent out a list of 16 reasons why earlier in the day, though his focus was on what he called a public option for health care that would wipe private providers out of the market and lead to a single-payer system.

But, he said, "It's not enough to say no to that and not have solutions to the problems that exist."

His point was that a civilized nation had to, for several reasons, find some way to make sure people are insured to bring down the costs borne by everyone who is covered. But, he said, people who are here legally should be able to get emergency

care if they need it. That didn't sit well with the group grumbling about such a thing not being spelled out in the Constitution.

Inglis had to point out that he did not think health care was a right, and he even had to remind people that he was a Republican, not a Libertarian. He did say, when asked, that if the current health care plan passes, he will opt out of the plan he has by virtue of his office and join the rest of us.

But the crowd was restless.

At one point, Inglis had to say, "You may not believe me, but I really don't have any secret plan to get you vaccinated."

By a show of hands, the crowd was roughly split on whether Inglis should work with anyone he could, including Democrats, to solve this countrys health care problem, versus the other half who said he should simply work to stop the current reform plan.

Inglis faces numerous challengers next year in the Republican primary.

Inglis also was called on to say he would not vote for anything that would go against the 2nd Amendment and to explain how to solve the problem of illegal immigration Thursday night.
