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# Congressman takes aim at 'Obama Care'

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MOORE -- U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis said "after we stop Obama Care" at least 30 times during a health care town hall Thursday night that lasted more than two hours at R.D. Anderson Applied Technology Center.

The Republican who represents South Carolina's Fourth Congressional District told constituents he was following advice of First Baptist North Spartanburg Pastor Mike Hamlet, who suggested Inglis say it at least 48 times.

Although Inglis didn't get to 48, the mantra seemed to soothe a crowd that could have been as hostile as others he's recently faced in Boiling Springs and Travelers Rest during a 12-session town hall circuit. Inglis distributed a list of 16 reasons to oppose House Resolution 3200. Three banners copied from news releases titled "Inglis: 16 Reasons to Oppose Obama Care" were also on display.

Others in the crowd of about 400 told Inglis that stopping President Barack Obama's health care overhaul proposed by congressional Democrats is not enough.

They asked for a plan to fix a system they and Inglis said is "broken."

Bill Oakley, a political independent and small business owner from Woodruff, said he respected Inglis for hosting the town hall, but said "simply being against Obama isn't the answer." He asked Inglis for 16 things he will do to fix health care.

Oakley, whose family pays \$5,000 a year for a policy with a \$10,000 deductible, said developing solutions should trump partisan politics. Oakley said anxiety forces families to make decisions that are tilted toward creating profits for companies, doctors and lawyers.



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U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis (R-Greenville) responds to a question during a town hall meeting on Thursday evening in Moore.

Inglis said health care isn't a right, but America, because of its prominent Judeo-Christian ethic, has an obligation to make sure people with immediate medical needs receive treatment.

Inglis spoke against the public option proposed in some Democrat-crafted legislation, but said some intervention is needed to curtail "free riders" such as illegal immigrants and people who have chosen not to purchase insurance. He said conservatives hate the word mandate, but one similar to the law requiring automobile insurance could bring down premium costs. Inglis also said denial because of pre-existing conditions must stop.

The congressman also suggested setting up a 50-state competition system, tort reform in which a person who brings an unsuccessful suit against someone would pay the legal costs of the defendant, and an arbitration panel in place of court battles.

Inglis staffers navigated the room with microphones during two sessions. The first allowed constituents to make comments and to question Inglis about an array of topics. The second allowed follow-ups from the health care discussion.

A few feisty questioners during the first session asked Inglis:

- u About a border fence around the country.
- u Whether Inglis had seen a copy of Obama's birth certificate.
- u Whether America is "a nation under one true God anymore."
- u Why he spends taxpayer money for travel.
- u Why he had called Glenn Beck a fearmonger.

Inglis also was accused of being too moderate.

Inglis said two birth announcements in Hawaiian newspapers were legitimate proof of Obama's citizenship, and that committee assignments involve trips for oversight purposes.

Beck, whom Inglis dubbed an "entertainer on a cable news show," received spirited applause. Inglis told the crowd they could watch whatever television programming they wanted. Then he said that he would not join them in watching Beck because the "entertainer" speaks too negatively.

Others asked Inglis for health care as good as members of Congress receive and discounts for healthy lifestyles.

Jay Caton of Moore, a contract worker at BMW who recently lost his job, raised his

hand to speak but time ran out. Caton said he wanted to ask Inglis about TARP and say he is "unemployed, uninsured and unimpressed with Obamanomics." Caton briefly spoke to Inglis after the event, urging the representative to ask Congress to eliminate penalties on unemployed people who access their 401(k) during an emergency.

Inglis told the Herald-Journal that Upstate residents should be thankful for sophisticated hospital systems, but the cost of care must be addressed.

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