

## The Oval: Tracking the Obama presidency

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Jan 06, 2010

# Obama wants to fast track a final health care bill

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The White House didn't say much about [last night's health care talks](#) between President Obama and congressional Democrats, but officials made it clear they're cool with fast-tracking the final phase of legislation, with no public hearings and no Republican involvement.

"The president is anxious to get the differences worked out and get a bill to both houses and passed out of them," said White House spokesman Robert Gibbs.

The president will be deeply involved. The White House just announced he will meet again this afternoon with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and other top House Democrats.

Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. -- who led a delegation to the White House early last evening -- have not appointed a House-Senate conference committee to work out differences in their divergent health care bills.

Instead, Democrats in both chambers are negotiating among themselves in hopes of forging a common bill that can be approved as amendments to the legislation.

Republicans are making an issue of this strategy. "I don't think it's a surprise to anyone that a bill that's been written outside of the view of the American people will continue to be handled by Democrats in the same way again," said Don Stewart, a spokesman for Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Other [critics have pointed to Obama's campaign pledge](#) about "bringing all parties together, and broadcasting those (health care) negotiations on C-SPAN so that the American people can see what the choices are."

Indeed, [C-SPAN CEO Brian Lamb](#) sent the White House a letter this week reminding officials of that promise.

Don't hold your breath on televised health care negotiations, however.

Gibbs said, "I don't think there's anybody that would say that we haven't had a thorough, robust, now-spanning-two-calendar-years' debate on health care."

*(Posted by David Jackson)*

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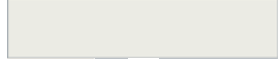
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**Ohioan for Clint** (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 8m ago

I see that the Obama Cheerleaders don't care whether he lies to them or not -- they simply "re-word" it, spin it, to make it right. Fortunately most Americans are more intelligent than these ignorant, do-nothing, so-called intellectuals.

We have a growing problem in this country where academics or intellectuals, who've never solved a problem or actually done anything of any substance -- think intellectual is the same as intelligent. Its not. These people wouldn't know their behind from a hole in the ground. They've taken lame courses in college, and have a lame degree and a lame job in government --- and they're given way too much credit. They've never taken economics, business, math, engineering...anything that involves logic.

But this is what most of the administration is made up of, and they're going to ruin this country.

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**ProfElwood** (7 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 8m ago

The economy is starting to buckle, and no one will want to burden it more after it falls. So, yeah, of course they're in a hurry.

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**Cryos** (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 12m ago

Conservativez (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 6m ago

=====  
Hey braintrust. Maybe the tax cuts WENT TO THE PEOPLE THAT PAY TAXES?????????????????

It's amazing how seriously stupid so many liberals are. Low income people pay NEGATIVE income taxes.

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**Cryos** (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 14m ago

Obama hasn't tried to be bipartisan in the least. A bunch of naive tools voted for his words but people with common sense and not blinded by speeches knew better.

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Why are we being yoked with the burden of Nebraska's health care?

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Because 40 republicans gave the Nebraska Senator a lot of power.

=====

Because Democrats have no shame.

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M1sf1ts (212 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: <1m ago  
Why do we except being lied to?

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You still watch Fox news....They lie weekly.

=====

That's still less than Obama.

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How is it legal to openly bribe sitting US Senators? Why are we letting them get away with it?

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