

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.), joined by ten other Republicans from Florida’s Congressional delegation, wrote Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum today to support his suit against the newly enacted health care overhaul.

“We share your assertion that portions of this law violate the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and financially encumber the state with an unfunded Medicaid expansion requirement,” the Congressmen wrote. “As stated in your lawsuit, the individual mandate is an unprecedented infringement on personal liberty afforded to every American under the Constitution. This mandate extends Congress’ power under the Commerce Clause well beyond the Founders’ intent and seeks to punish individuals for economic inactivity. Additionally, we are concerned with the massive expansion of Medicaid mandated in this law, particularly at a time when Florida is struggling to cover its current Medicaid population.”

Congressmen Adam Putnam, Connie Mack, Ginny Brown-Waite, Bill Young, Ander Crenshaw, Gus Bilirakis, Jeff Miller, Cliff Stearns, Vern Buchanan and Bill Posey (all R-Fla.) also signed the letter. The full text of the letter is below.

Office of the Attorney General
State of Florida
The Capitol PL-01
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

March 30, 2010

Dear Attorney General McCollum:

We are writing today to applaud your swift action in filing suit against the newly enacted health care overhaul legislation, H.R. 3590. We share your assertion that portions of this law violate the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and financially encumber the state with an unfunded Medicaid expansion requirement.

Attorneys general across the country have expressed similar concerns and 14 additional states have already sued the federal government. As stated in your lawsuit, the individual mandate is an unprecedented infringement on personal liberty afforded to every American under the Constitution. This mandate extends Congress’ power under the Commerce Clause well beyond the Founders’ intent and seeks to punish individuals for economic inactivity. Additionally, we are concerned with the massive expansion of Medicaid mandated in this law, particularly at a time when Florida is struggling to cover its current Medicaid population. These are two pivotal reasons we opposed the bill when it came before the House on March 21, 2010.

Please know we fully support your actions to defend our Constitution and will continue to work in Congress to ultimately repeal the most damaging portions of this law.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress

Adam Putnam
Member of Congress

Connie Mack
Member of Congress

Ginny Brown-Waite
Member of Congress

Bill Young
Member of Congress

Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress

Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Jeff Miller
Member of Congress

Cliff Stearns
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

Bill Posey
Member of Congress

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