

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Lon Burnam
DISTRICT 90 • FORT WORTH

December 16, 2013

Chairman Darrel Issa
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman,

I was extremely disappointed to hear that the Chairman is planning to hold a field hearing today in Richardson that seems more like political theater. The Chairman seems to be relying on, and accepting at face value, the video reports of a known charlatan, fraud and criminal, James O'Keefe. Considering that he pled guilty to charges relating to an attempted sabotaging or tapping of the official phones of a member of Congress, I would think that all members of Congress would avoid becoming entangled with such a disreputable character.

Back here in Texas, we are struggling to find help for the one-quarter of our people who lack health insurance. This is too great a crisis to be spending taxpayer dollars on sham hearings instead of *helping Texans obtain health insurance*. Shouldn't our duty as elected officials be attempting to help our constituents with a severe problem, rather than stoking fear seemingly designed to prevent people from enrolling in health insurance plans through the Affordable Care Act? Is this an attempt to keep enrollment numbers low and thus be able to point to the Act as a failure? Surely we have not fallen to those lows in our political discourse.

I oppose all efforts to impose unnecessary hurdles in front of the people of Texas in obtaining health insurance, including the needlessly burdensome proposed state rules for navigators. Please see attached an op-ed I wrote on this issue.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lon Burnam".

State Representative Lon Burnam