



Freedom Watch  
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December 16, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C.

Re: Demand to Allow Access to Meetings and Communications with Health Industry Lobbyists  
and to Produce Records Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act

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Dear President Obama:

I am making the above demand as Chairman and General Counsel of Freedom Watch on behalf of the American people.

It has been widely reported and it is independently known that you and your agents and representatives have been communicating and meeting with, in secret and behind "closed doors," with lobbyists from the private pharmaceutical industry (i.e., Pharma), Planned Parenthood, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the America Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the American Medical Association (AMA) and other private interests, cutting deals to attempt to assure passage of your proposed healthcare legislation.

This conduct falls squarely within the scope of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App.1 et seq., as these non-transparent communications and meetings with lobbyists and non-governmental persons and groups constitute a de facto advisory committee under the letter and intent of the law.

Given the high stakes involved, and public interest, inherent in your efforts to restructure an industry which accounts for one seventh of the nation's GDP and which affects so many of our citizens' lives, we must, on behalf of the American people, demand that you allow us to participate in any such communications and meetings and that you turn over all documentation, such as minutes and notes of and concerning all meetings and other records, immediately, concerning these de facto FACA activities.

As the next few weeks are particularly crucial in your efforts to have Congress pass your proposed legislation, there is no time to lose, as the public needs to be fully informed of the "deals" which you and your representatives, agents and surrogates are in the process of "cutting" behind the scenes. Simply put, the public has the right to know what you promised to private special interests before the proposed legislation becomes law.

**WE THEREFORE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU PROVIDE AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO THIS DEMAND BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2009. OTHERWISE, FREEDOM WATCH WILL BE FORCED TO FILE SUIT THE NEXT DAY.**

You and your administration have pledged full transparency to the American people. Now is your chance to make good on this commitment.

Thank you for your immediate cooperation.