



## LANCASTER COUNTY CHAPTER

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## *Winter 2025 ACTION Newsletter*



### *Message from the President...*

#### **Trump Progresses Despite Dems by Robert Kettering**

Donald Trump is continuing to make America great again, but instead of joining with him for the good of the American people, the Democrats continue to pursue whatever issue they can find to oppose him in any way possible. Throughout the Biden presidency, the Democrats saw no need to release the Epstein files, but when they thought that releasing them may hurt Trump, they demanded that Trump release these files immediately. However the release of the Epstein files did no real damage to Trump, so now the Democrats are on to their next and newest mantra, “affordability”.

After four years of Joe Biden’s presidency, when inflation soared to 9%, nearly everything that we purchase became more expensive. As usual, the Democrats create the problem (inflation and higher prices) and then with the help of their media allies, they blame the problem that they’ve just created on Trump. So, their most recent mantra is that under Trump, prices have become unaffordable! But these prices didn’t go up under Trump, they went up under the four years of the Biden presidency. I believe most Americans realize that the high prices were a result of Biden’s presidency and they recognize the steps that Trump is taking to bring those prices back down. The reduction in fuel prices had helped to reduce costs across the board, and now even interest rates have been reduced, which should help to stimulate the economy and specifically the housing industry, just in time for the new year when the Trump tax cuts will kick in.

As we enter the Christmas season, when peace and goodwill to all are at the forefront, we want to take the time to wish each of you a blessed Christmas and a most prosperous new year. So from all of us at Action to all of you, have a very Merry Christmas!

*“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”*

Edmund Burke

# Affordable Care Act Shouldn't Need to be Propped Up

**By: Stuart Wesbury for LNP**

The 2010 Affordable Care Act, often called “Obamacare”, was supposed to make health care insurance more affordable and improve health care quality while containing costs.

National health care annual spending rose from \$2.6 trillion in 2010 to \$4.9 trillion in 2023, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services- an 88% increase over 13 years.

It is important to remember that “Obamacare” was passed by Congress with Democrats controlling both the U.S. House and Senate and President Barack Obama in the White House. Republican proposals that might have benefited the nation were blocked by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

As I pointed out in a January 2010 letter to the editor, “Republicans have (had) proposals for insurance reform, tort reform, cost savings, insuring more Americans, rewarding healthy lifestyles and encouraging more individual involvement in health care decisions.”

To make matters worse, Pelosi was quoted as saying, “We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it.” So much for leadership, bipartisanship and transparency!

Today, we are faced with still another weird and ridiculous problem. During the COVID-19 epidemic, funds were made available to assist unemployed and underemployed individuals and families with premiums for health insurance plans purchased through the Affordable Care Act marketplace. Those subsidies were meant to be temporary, in anticipation of the full opening of our economy post-COVID-19.

Lo and behold, our economy has recovered from the pandemic, but the Democrats in Congress still were willing to shut down the government recently, in part because Republicans have declined to extend those subsidies.

The matter still needs resolution but when a crisis is over, continued funding is not justified, especially when the \$36 trillion national debt is also a major crisis needing attention. This is outright theft of taxpayer resources, and it was certainly not a reason to shut down our nation’s federal government.

Without going too deep into the complicated details of “Obamacare” funding, it is important to recognize that increases in health insurance premiums and subsidies have become virtually automatic. Government subsidies have shielded many Americans from the real costs of health care insurance, so the free market has ceased to function for health care.

Our nation’s experience with college loans and grants and our experience with electric vehicle subsidies combine to undermine the free market’s ability to make purchase choice that would normally encourage cost reductions and savings for citizens. Add health care subsidies to this list and it becomes easy to conclude that government involvement and subsidization experiences are disasters.

“Obamacare” is more than 15 years old. It has expanded the number of insured Americans, but clearly cannot work at this time without being continually propped up by federal subsidies.

Congress, the Trump administration, academia and health care leaders must initiate intensive study and action. Personal, family, and government expenditures for health care have combined to reach unacceptable heights. According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid services, per-person spending on health care reached \$14,570 per person in 2023. A full-time worker earning \$20 per hour must work more than 700 hours per year to earn the equivalent of his or her health care costs. At \$50 per hour, a worker with a spouse and one child would have to work some 870 hours. These are large chunks out of an annual income.

It is far past the time to focus on what can be done to prevent and reduce health care problems and the need for costly health care services. One approach: the Pennsylvania State Health Improvement Plan, a five-year strategic plan that sets out goals and strategies to improve the health of Pennsylvanians.

The plan features strategies, for instance, to prevent chronic diseases. The 2023-2028 plan notes that chronic diseases “include but are not limited to obesity, coronary heart disease, diabetes, cancer, (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), asthma, and cardiovascular diseases. ... 47% of Pennsylvanian adults in 2020 lived with one or more chronic diseases, with higher rates among 65 years and older. Some risk factors for chronic diseases are physical inactivity and poor nutrition.”

As noted in the 2015-2020 plan, which I participated in writing, “Evidence links obesity, physical inactivity, and poor nutrition to shortened lifespan. Today’s youth are in danger of dying at younger ages than their parents.”

The state plan identifies health issues best addressed by prevention rather than treatment after the fact. And yet the plan seems to have had little effect on individual behavior. Which leads us to this question for everyone: How much can we afford or want to pay, in one way or another, for health care? Individuals, employers, government officials and health care leaders must work together to answer this question.

# JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST!

## Lancaster County ACTION Quarterly Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, January 10, 2026 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Bird-In-Hand Family Restaurant

2760 Old Philadelphia Pike (Rt 340), Bird-In-Hand, PA



**Our Speaker: U.S. Congressman Lloyd Smucker**

**Topic: Is the Golden Age Ahead?**



Lloyd Smucker wants to reignite the American Dream. As a Member of the Ways and Means Committee and a senior member of the Budget Committee, Smucker champions policies that make it possible for every person to pursue thier American Dream, including increased economic opportunity for everyone, reining in Washington’s out of control spending, and providing regulatory relief to small businesses so they can expand and create jobs.

Lloyd resides in West Lampeter Township with his wife Cindy.

Please reserve your seat at the quarterly breakfast by calling the ACTION office (717-847-0902) or emailing [LancoAction@gmail.com](mailto:LancoAction@gmail.com) by Monday, January 5, 2026.

The cost is \$20.00 per person, and may be paid by cash, check or zelle. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

## A Message from the Treasurer - Is Your Membership Current?

Lancaster County ACTION annual dues (January - December) are \$20.00 per family. Dues are payable January 1st of each year. If you have already paid your Dues for the coming year, “2026” will appear on your Newsletter mailing label. If “2026” does not appear on your label, your Dues should be paid now.

If you receive your newsletter by email, please email us if you need to check your status.

Note that members do receive a \$5.00 discount on the price of breakfast!

Thank you for your support!

*clip and send*

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Please clip and return to ACTION of PA - Lancaster Chapter, PO Box 29, Elizabethtown, PA 17022 or email to [LancoAction@gmail.com](mailto:LancoAction@gmail.com) Thank you!

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Isaiah 9:6-7 (New King James Version)

For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of His government and peace  
There will be no end.

