

The Left after The Failure of Obamacare

By [Shamus Cooke](#)

Global Research, January 05, 2014

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Poverty & Social Inequality](#)

It's satisfying to watch rats flee a sinking ship. This is because onlookers knew the ship was doomed long ago, and swimming rats signify that the drawn-out tragedy is nearing an end. A collective sense of relief is a natural response.

The rats who propped up the broken boat of Obamacare are a collection of [liberal](#) and labor groups who frittered away their group's resources—and integrity—to sell a crappy product to the American people.

Those in the deepest denial went “all in” for Obamacare— such as some unions and groups like Moveon.org— while the more conniving groups and individuals—like Michael Moore— playacted “critical” of Obamacare, while nevertheless declaring it “progressive”, in effect [adding crucial political support](#) to a project that deserved none.

But of course Obamacare was always more barrier than progress: we've wasted the last several years planning, debating, and reconstructing the national health care system, all the while going in the wrong direction— into the pockets of the insurance mega corporations. A couple of progressive patches on the sails won't keep her afloat. It's shipbuilding time.

It was painful to watch otherwise intelligent people lend support to something that's such an obviously bad idea. So it's with immense relief that liberals like Michael Moore, labor groups, and others are finally distancing themselves from Obamacare's Titanic failure. Now these individuals and groups can stop living in denial and the rest of us can proceed towards a rational discussion about a real health care solution.

The inevitable failure of Obamacare is not due to a bad website, but deeper issues. The hammering of the nails in the coffin has begun: millions of young people are suddenly realizing that Obamacare does not offer affordable health care. It's a lie, and they aren't buying it, literally.

The system depends on sufficient young people to opt in and purchase plans, in order to offset the costs of the older, higher-needs population. Poor young people with zero disposable income are being asked to pay monthly premiums of \$150 and more, and they're opting out, inevitably sinking Obamacare in the process.

Those young people who actually do buy Obamacare plans—to avoid the “mandate” fine— will be further enraged when they attempt to actually use their “insurance”. Many of the cheapest plans—the obvious choice for most young people— have \$5,000 deductibles before the insurance will pay for anything. For poor young people this is no insurance at all, but a form of extortion.

At the same time millions of union members are being punished under Obamacare: those with decent insurance plans will suffer the “Cadillac” tax, which will push up the cost of their

healthcare plans, and employers are already demanding concessions from union members in the form of higher health care premiums, co-pays, deductibles, etc.

Lower paid union workers will suffer as well. Those who are part of the Taft Hartley insurance plans will be pressured to leave the plans and buy their own insurance, since they cannot keep their plans and get the subsidy that the lowest income workers get. This has the potential to bust the whole Taft Hartley health care system that millions of union members benefit from, which is one of the reasons that [labor leaders suddenly became outraged](#) at Obamacare, after having wasted millions of union member's dollars propping it up.

Ultimately, the American working class will collectively cheer Obamacare's demise. They just need labor and other lefties to cheer lead its destruction a little more fiercely.

Surprisingly, most of the rats are still clinging to Obama's hopeless vessel, frantically bailing water. Sure they've put on their life preservers and anxiously eyeing the lifeboats, but they're also preaching about how to re-align the deckchairs.

For example, in his "critical" New York Times op-ed piece, Michael Moore called Obamacare "awful", but also called it a "godsend", singing his same tired tune. Part of Moore's solution for Obamacare—which was [cheered on in the Daily Kos](#)— is equally ludicrous, and follows his consistently flawed logic that Obamacare is worth saving, since its "progress" that we can build on. [Moore writes:](#)

"Those who live in red [Republican dominated] states need the benefit of Medicaid expansion [a provision of Obamacare].... In blue [Democrat dominated] states, let's lobby for a public option on the insurance exchange — a health plan run by the state government, rather than a private insurer."

This is Moore at his absolute worst. He's neck deep in the flooded hull of the U.S.S. Obamacare and giving us advice on how to tread water.

Of course Moore doesn't criticize the heart of Obamacare, the individual mandate, the most hated component.

Moore also relies on the trump card argument of the pro-Obamacare liberals: there are progressive aspects to the scheme—such as the expansion of Medicaid— and therefore the whole system is worth saving.

Of course it's untrue that we need Obamacare to expand Medicaid. In fact, the expansion of Medicaid acted more as a Trojan horse to introduce the pro-corporate heart of the system; a horse that Moore and other liberals nauseatingly continue to ride on.

But Moore's sneakiest argument is his advice to blue states to "...lobby for a public option on the insurance exchange..."

Again, Moore implies that it's ok if we are "mandated" to buy health insurance, so long as there is a public option. But that aside, the deeper scheme here is that Moore wants us to further waste our energy "reforming" Obamacare, rather than driving it to the bottom of the sea.

Moore surely knows that very few people are going to march in the streets demanding a public option at this point; he therefore knows that even this tiny reform of the system is unachievable. He's wasting our time. Real change only happens in politics when there is a surge of energy among large sections of the population, and it's extremely unlikely that more than a handful of people are going to be active towards "fixing" Obamacare— they want to drown it.

Moore's attempt to funnel people's outrage at Obamacare towards a "public option" falls laughably short, and this is likely his intention, since his ongoing piecemeal "criticisms" of the system have only served to salvage a sunken ship.

Instead of wasting energy trying to pry Obamacare out of the grip of the corporations, Moore would be better served to focus exclusive energy towards expanding the movement for Medicare For All, which he claims that he also supports, while maintaining that somehow Obamacare will evolve into Single Payer system.

Most developed nations have achieved universal health care through a single payer system, which in the United States can be easily achieved by expanding Medicare to everybody. Once the realities of Obamacare directly affect the majority of the population and exacerbates the crisis of U.S. healthcare, people will inevitably choose to support the movement of Medicare for All, the only real option for a sane health care system.

Shamus Cooke is a social service worker, trade unionist, and writer for Workers Action (www.workerscompass.org). He can be reached at shamuscooke@gmail.com

Notes

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/11/22/1257552/-It-s-Inequality-Stupid-Defending-Affordable-Healthcare>

http://www.democracynow.org/2012/6/29/michael_moore_supreme_court_healthcare_ruling

<http://www.aflcio.org/About/Exec-Council/Conventions/2013/Resolutions-and-Amendments/Resolution-54-AFL-CIO-Convention-Resolution-on-the-Affordable-Care-Act>

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/01/01/1266411/-Michael-Moore-s-Prescription-for-Obamacare>

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/01/opinion/moore-the-obamacare-we-deserve.html?_r=0

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Shamus Cooke](#), Global Research, 2014

[**Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page**](#)

[**Become a Member of Global Research**](#)

Articles by: [Shamus Cooke](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca