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Subject: Fact Checking the President's Super Bowl Interview

In case you weren't watching the (interminably long) Super Bowl pre-game show yesterday, Bill O'Reilly spent a portion of the festivities interviewing President Obama. A full transcript of the interview can be found [here](#); health care-related excerpts follow below my signature. More importantly, here are some of the facts surrounding the President's supposed claims about the law:

CLAIM: "I lowered taxes over the last two years."

FACT: The health care law includes a whopping [\\$569,200,000,000 in tax increases](#) scheduled to take effect over the coming years – taxes that will harm an economy struggling to grow. Most of these taxes will be paid by, or passed through to, the middle-class – including [a new 40 percent tax on insurance policies the government is forcing individuals to buy](#), a tax so unpopular Democrats refused to impose it before 2018, well after President Obama will leave office.

CLAIM: "We want cost controls in health care."

FACT: According to the [Medicare actuary](#), the health care law will INCREASE costs by \$310,800,000,000. In June 2009, President Obama [claimed](#) that any health care legislation must control costs: "If any bill arrives from Congress that is not controlling costs, that's not a bill I can support. It's going to have to control costs." But just last month, the Medicare actuary once again [confirmed](#) that the President's promise is "false, more so than true."

CLAIM: "What we said was, if you have health care that you like, you keep it."

FACT: According to the Administration's [own estimates](#), [half of all employers – and as many as 80% of small businesses – will be forced to give up their current coverage within the next two years](#), thus subjecting them to costly new mandates that will increase premiums. Last month, the Medicare actuary [agreed](#) with the Administration's own estimates that the President's promise is "not true in all cases."

CLAIM: [Responding to O'Reilly's claim that the bill was "a huge government intrusion" that will "take over, basically, decision making for Americans"] "But, Bill...you have a responsibility to make sure that you have got coverage."

FACT: The law goes much further than its [constitutionally dubious](#) requirement to obtain coverage – it forces individuals to buy, and large employers to offer, *government-defined* insurance coverage or pay financial penalties, meaning federal bureaucrats will be defining the parameters under which all Americans will obtain health care. Moreover, the law itself creates [159 new bureaucracies and programs](#), stretching the federal government's involvement into virtually every nook and cranny of the health care sector.

Given the events of yesterday, and the numerous factual mis-statements the President made in his interview, some may wonder whether the President is as knowledgeable about what's really in the health care law as Christina Aguilera is about [the words to the National Anthem](#)...

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O'REILLY: Federal judge in Florida said, your health care law is unconstitutional. The Supreme Court may follow on that, it's going to be very close. Are you prepared for that law to go down?

OBAMA: Well, I think the judge in Florida was wrong. Keep in mind that we've had 12 judges said -- that just threw this case out -- the notion that the health care law was unconstitutional.

O'REILLY: But it goes to the Supremes now.

OBAMA: Well, it first it goes to the appellate court -- there's district court, then there are appeal courts, and then it goes to the Supreme Court. But here's the key point, Bill, and I said this in the State of the Union, I don't want to spend the next two years refighting the battles of the last two years.

O'REILLY: Yeah, but you're going have to.

OBAMA: Well, I don't think that's...

O'REILLY: The Supreme Court is going to hear this one way or the other.

OBAMA: What the American have said is we want cost controls in health care, we want security in health care. What I've said to the Republicans is if you have ideas in terms of improving the health care system, if you have ideas that I can embrace on things like...

O'REILLY: They're not going to bother with it, though. They're going wait until it goes to the court and hope it thrown out 5-4. My question is are you prepared if it gets thrown out? What are you going to do?

OBAMA: Here's what I'm not prepared to do, I'm not prepared to go back to a day when the American people if you have got a pre-existing condition, if you had a heart attack then you can't get help.

O'REILLY: Here's what the Wall Street Journal said, I want you to react to this. Mr. Obama is a determined man of the left whose goal is to redistribute much larger levels of income across society. He may give tactical ground when he has to, as he did on taxes to avoid a middle class tax increase, but he will resist to his last day any major changes to Obamacare and the other load-bearing walls of the entitlement state.

This is The Wall Street Journal you know painting you as pretty left-wing guy. Are you going to go along?

OBAMA: Well, the Wall Street Journal probably would paint you as a left-wing guy. I mean, if you're talking about the Wall Street Journal editorial page...

O'REILLY: I've got to tell you, that's what this is.

OBAMA: You know, that's like quoting the New York Times editorial...

O'REILLY: Do you deny the assessment? Do you deny that you are a man who wants to redistribute wealth.

OBAMA: Absolutely.

O'REILLY: You deny that?

OBAMA: Absolutely. I didn't raise taxes once, I lowered taxes over the last two years.

O'REILLY: But the entitlements that you championed do redistribute wealth in the sense that they provide insurance coverage for 40 million people that don't have it.

OBAMA: What is absolutely true is I think in this country, there's no reason why, if you get sick you should go bankrupt. The notion that that's a radical principle, I don't think the majority of people would agree with you.

O'REILLY: Then why do the majority people in the polls not support Obamacare?

OBAMA: Actually, I think it's pretty evenly divided.

O'REILLY: It's close.

OBAMA: It's evenly divided, Bill. And here's what I think a lot of people saw, over the last two years, at a time when people were concerned about the economy and about jobs, what they saw was a lot of arguing in congress, which is what they always see is a lot of arguing in congress. And they don't like the process and they felt that our focus wasn't on what they're focused on, which is how to win the future, how to make sure that jobs are right here in the United States of America. How are we building a competitive society at a time when we're losing jobs.

O'REILLY: Yeah, some people see it that way, but other people see it's a huge government intrusion and you guy just want to take over, basically, decision making for Americans. It's an ideological argument.

OBAMA: But, Bill, I just want to be clear about this, because if you look what we have done, what we said was, if you have health care that you like, you keep it.

O'REILLY: I know all that. I listen to it every day.

OBAMA: I know. And I listen to you. And what I hear you saying, Bill, for example, is that the notion that us saying to people that don't have health insurance, don't make me pay for your health insurance, if you get sick, you have a responsibility to make sure that you have got coverage. There's nothing socialist about that, that's saying to Americans, we're going each of us be responsible for our own health care. And that's something that I think that the majority of Americans...

O'REILLY: OK, but you understand that a lot of Americans feel you're a big government liberal who wants to intrude on their personal freedom. Now, they also say that you have been moving - now, that's -- come on, you know that...

OBAMA: I think that a lot of folks who watch you don't believe that.

O'REILLY: They think way worse than me.

OBAMA: And I give you credit, you've got a pretty big viewership, so you can be persuasive.