

Sen. Reid on Transparency in Congress

“Democrats believe that there should be protection for the taxpayers for footing the bill for this legislation. That begins with more oversight, more transparency, more accountability, and more controls to prevent conflicts of interest.” - NPR (2009)

“We are closer than ever, but we’re not there quite yet. And as we head for the finish line, one of the most important parts of this process is transparency” - (Senate floor, Nov. 2 2009

http://reid.senate.gov/newsroom/pr_110209_transparency.cfm)

“It is important to understand where we are in this process: Right now, we are merging those two bills into one. That work is ongoing, and many different options are being weighed. The Congressional Budget Office is analyzing those options, and based on their analysis, we will decide what to put into a bill” - (Senate floor, Nov. 2 2009

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“While the two health care reform plans that are serving as the main building blocks for the merged bill have been publicly available for quite some time, I would note that the Republican leadership’s health care plan remains a secret, unless perhaps it does not exist.....I am sure you agree that the American people deserve the opportunity to fully review both parties’ health care reform plans before we begin this important debate” –

(Nov. 2 2009 <http://theplumline.whorunsgov.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/20091102134613825.pdf>)

“Those who demand to see the bill right this minute forget that the final doesn’t yet exist,” Reid said. “If it did, we’d bring it to the floor... We pledge to make the final bill available to the whole Senate and to the American people.” – (Nov. 2 2009

<http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/65923-reid-fires-back-at-gop-over-transparency-alternatives>)

“From the very start of this debate, she's [Sen. Lincoln] made clear to me that transparent debate on this issue is a top priority of hers. To that end, Senator Lincoln said she would not allow a vote on the motion to proceed to this bill unless it had been available to the public for a reasonable period of time. She was joined by virtually everyone on this side of the aisle to that effect. They were right. The people did deserve a chance to see the bill before that the senator deserves credit for that. Senator Lincoln and I appreciate her standing up on that issue. She believes, and I agree, that we can do more on the transparency part as this bill moves forward to the next stage of this process. Therefore, Senator Lincoln asked me to propound on her behalf a unanimous consent request. I ask unanimous consent that no amendment be in order to the Reid substitute amendment number” – (Senate floor, Nov. 30 2009)