



Updated: Wed., Jan. 6, 2010, 4:54 PM

## Obama promised 8 times during campaign to televise health care debate

By CLEMENTE LISI

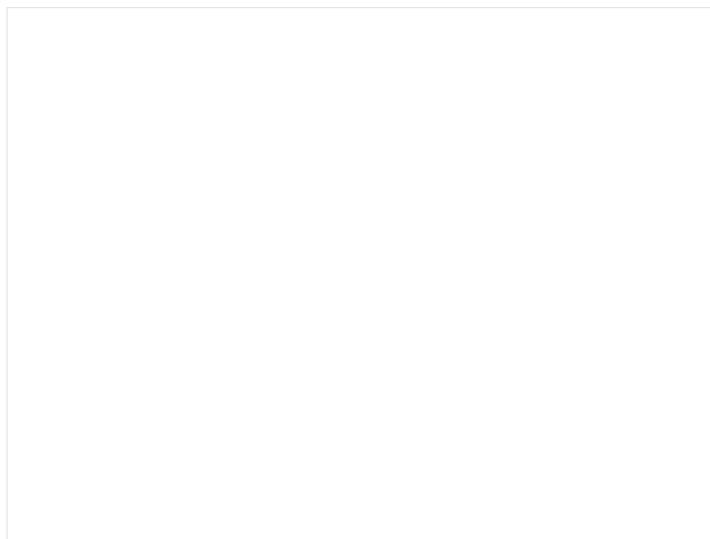
Last Updated: 4:54 PM, January 6, 2010

Posted: 11:58 AM, January 6, 2010

The health care revolution will not be televised despite what President Obama promised you two years ago.

Obama has broken his campaign promises to make the health care debate a transparent process after saying he would do so on at least eight occasions during his 2008 White House run.

Instead, Obama prodded House and Senate Democrats to get him a final health care bill as soon as possible -- encouraging them on Tuesday night to go behind closed doors and skip the usual public negotiations between the two chambers in the interest of speed.



During the 2008 presidential campaign, Obama repeatedly told voters that the health care overhaul would take place in a public forum, most notably on C-SPAN, conservative bloggers pointed out today.

In a video montage posted on Breitbart.tv, Obama is seen promising voters -- on eight different occasions -- that the health care debate would be transparent.

For example, during a meeting with the editorial board of The San Francisco Chronicle on Jan. 20, 2008, Obama said, "These negotiations will be on C-SPAN, and so the public will be part of the conversation and will see the choices that are being made."

In another clip, dated Nov. 14, 2008, Obama told voters that the process would be transparent.

"We will work on this process publicly. It'll be on C-SPAN. It'll be streaming on the Internet," he said.

This comes as Republicans seized on a Dec. 30 letter from the head of C-SPAN on Tuesday calling on congressional leaders to open the final talks to the public and cited Obama's campaign trail pledge to do just that.

But Democrats have reacted defensively to criticism that they are taking the most crucial stage of the debate behind closed doors, contending they've conducted a transparent process with hundreds of public meetings and legislation posted online.

Asked about that promise, Pelosi retorted, without elaboration, "There are a number of things he was for on the campaign trail."

Democratic lawmakers have agreed that rather than setting up a formal conference committee to resolve differences between health bills passed last year by the House and Senate, the House will work off the Senate's version, amend it and send it back to the Senate for final passage, officials said.

The committee process would have been something that the cable network C-SPAN would have aired live. Instead, Obama's goal is to get a final bill to his desk before next month's State of the Union address.

As for the bill itself, House Democrats will probably have to give up on starting a new government insurance plan to compete with the private market. In its place, they hope for more generous subsidies for low income families to buy health

insurance.

---

NEW YORK POST is a registered trademark of NYP Holdings, Inc.  
[NYPOST.COM](#) , [NYPOSTONLINE.COM](#) , and [NEWYORKPOST.COM](#) are trademarks of NYP Holdings, Inc.  
Copyright 2011 NYP Holdings, Inc. All rights reserved. [Privacy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)

---