

## Text 1

and he'll impose mandates If you're a small business person and you don't insure your employees, Sen Obama will fine you Will fine you That's remarkable If you're a parent and you're struggling to get health insurance for your children, Sen Obama will fine you I want to give every American a \$5,000 refundable tax credit They can take it anywhere, across state lines Why not? Don't we go across state lines when we purchase other things in America? Of course it's OK to go across state lines because in Arizona they may offer a better plan that suits you best than it does here in Tennessee And if you do the math, those people who have employer-based health benefits, if you put the tax on it and you have what's left over and you add \$5,000 that you're going to get as a refundable tax credit, do the math, 95 percent of the American all of those people will be covered except for those who have these gold-plated Cadillac kinds of policies You know, like hair transplants, I might need one of those myself But the point is that we have got to give people choice in America and not mandate things on them and give them the ability Every parent I know would acquire health insurance for their children if they could Obviously small business people want to give their employees health insurance Of course they all want to do that We've got to give them the wherewithal to do it We can do it by giving them, as a start, a \$5,000 refundable tax credit to go around and get the health insurance policy of their choice

Brokaw: Quick discussion Is health care in America a privilege, a right, or a responsibility? Sen McCain?

McCain: I think it's a responsibility, in this respect, in that we should have available and affordable health care to every American citizen, to every family member And with the plan that – that I have, that will do that But government mandates I – I'm always a little nervous about But it is certainly my responsibility It is certainly small-business people and others, and they understand that responsibility American citizens understand that Employers understand that But they certainly are a little nervous when Sen Obama says, if you don't get the health care policy that I think you should have, then you're going to get fined And, by the way, Sen Obama has never mentioned how much that fine might be Perhaps we might find that out tonight

Obama: Well, why don't – why don't – let's talk about this, Tom, because there was just a lot of stuff out there

Brokaw: Privilege, right or responsibility Let's start with that

Obama: Well, I think it should be a right for every American In a country as wealthy as ours, for us to have people who are going bankrupt because they can't pay their medical bills – for my mother to die of cancer at the age of 53 and have to spend the last months of her life in the hospital room arguing with insurance companies because they're saying that this may be a pre-existing condition and they don't have to pay her there's something fundamentally wrong about that So let me – let me just talk about this fundamental difference And, Tom, I know that we're under time constraints, but Sen McCain through a lot of stuff out there Number one, let me just repeat, if you've got a health care plan that you like, you can keep it All I'm going to do is help you to lower the premiums on it You'll still have choice of doctor There's no mandate involved Small businesses are not going to have a mandate What we're going to give you is a 50 percent tax credit to help provide health care for those that you need Now, it's true that I say that you are going to have to make sure that your child

has health care, because children are relatively cheap to insure and we don't want them going to the emergency room for treatable illnesses like asthma. And when Sen McCain says that he wants to provide children health care, what he doesn't mention is he voted against the expansion of the Children's Health Insurance Program that is responsible for making sure that so many children who didn't have it. Now, the final point I'll make on this whole issue of government intrusion and mandates – it is absolutely true that I think it is important for government to crack down on insurance companies that are cheating their customers, that don't give you the fine print, so you end up thinking that you're paying for something and, when you finally get sick and you need it, you're not getting it. And the reason that it's a problem to go shopping state by state, you know what insurance companies will do? and they will all set up shop there. They will find a state – maybe Arizona, maybe another state – where there are no requirements for you to get cancer screenings, where there are no requirements for you to have to get pre-existing conditions. That's how in banking it works. Everybody goes to Delaware, because they've got very – pretty loose laws when it comes to things like credit cards. And in that situation, what happens is, is that the protections you have, the consumer protections that you need, you're not going to have available to you. That is a fundamental difference that I have with Sen McCain. He believes in deregulation in every circumstance. That's what we've been going through for the last eight years. It hasn't worked, and we need fundamental change.