

PRESS RELEASE

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South Philly Author Encourages Critical Thinking About Government

For Immediate Release

Author Mark Robinson has published his first book, "Health Care and Public Policy for the Confused, Concerned, and Curious." The book is addressed to people who want to understand what Obamacare is all about, what its strengths and weaknesses are, and what are alternative ways that the American health care system can be reformed.

The idea for the book came from Robinson's frustration with the news media. "If a politician announces a major new initiative, there will be lots of talk of the politics behind it," he says. "Journalists and pundits will discuss how the initiative affects the next election, but usually there isn't much substantive talk about whether or not the policy is good for the country."

So Robinson began to imagine what a TV talk show would look like if all the pundits decided to evaluate the substance of proposed policies. He imagined what liberals and conservatives would say if they gave honest, well-informed explanations of what they really think, rather than repeating mindless talking points. And he decided to write down what these dialogues would look like, with the topic being the recently-passed Obamacare law.

The result is a book that captures the passion, humor, and fun of American policy debates without sacrificing substance. Readers will learn about technical subjects like tax preferences, adverse selection, and budget deficits while following the arguments and experiences of four fictional characters who struggle to deal with the American health care system. "My hope is that as people read the dialogue between the characters, they will want to join in the argument themselves," says Robinson.

About the author:

Mark Robinson is a tax analyst and computer programmer at Solutions for Progress, Inc., in Philadelphia, PA. He has a B.A. from Haverford College. At Haverford he studied history, politics, and computer science, and wrote his thesis on the 1996 welfare overhaul.

Free copies of "Health Care and Public Policy for the Confused, Concerned, and Curious" are available to members of the press. Please email markrobinson6@gmail.com.

More information, and a free online excerpt, available at www.healthcareandpublicpolicy.com