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## FREEDOM SPEAKS!

### Obamacare "Tax" Started in Senate - Supreme Court Challenge on Illegal Bill

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by  
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As we were all famously told by then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Congress had to pass the Patient Protection and Affordable Healthcare Act (PPAHA), known commonly as "Obamacare," so that We, the People can find out what's in it. Well, Congress passed it . . . the People read it . . . and the People don't like it.

Almost immediately, our lawmakers commenced the battle to save this country's healthcare industry and ensure that the People remain in control of their healthcare decisions. The People have also stepped up to the plate, filing countless lawsuits to chip away at the burdensome and crippling ACA.

Three years ago, in the first of several highly-publicized lawsuits challenging the ACA, the Supreme Court upheld the ACA's individual mandate penalties as a "tax." The Obama administration lauded the Court's holding and determination that the ACA was a tax as a major win, but the best-laid plans of mice and men oft go astray.

In arguing that the individual mandate was a "tax," the federal government acknowledged that the ACA is, at its core, a bill for raising revenue (and a lot if it, at that). The effect of the individual mandate and the ACA's other revenue provisions resulted in one of the largest tax increases in American history, imposed on the entire population, with revenues of some \$486 billion anticipated.

Why does this matter? And, why did it cause the Obama Administration's plan to "go astray"?

The Constitution requires that *all* bills for raising revenue originate in the House of Representatives. As Southeastern Legal Foundation explains in its amicus brief filed with the Supreme Court in support of Matt Sissel's lawsuit challenging the ACA, the revenue-raising ACA did *not* originate in the House of Representatives. Instead, what eventually became the ACA started out as the six-page Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act of 2009. That bill was unanimously passed by the House, but when it went to

the Senate, the only thing the Senate kept was the bill number. It gutted the six-page bill and replaced it with 2,074 pages of healthcare and tax legislation that included 17 revenue-raising provisions.

The Senate's actions violated the Constitution's Origination Clause and made a mockery of the Founder's commitment to checks and balances. SLF supports Matt Sissel in his challenge to ensure that a lawful legislative process remains a constitutional precondition preceding the enactment of laws. We, the People are doing what we can, under the Constitution, to chip away at the Obamacare juggernaut.

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