

### **Democrats deliver health-care reform**

Lately one of the most played television commercials is the “repeal it now” commercial with Mike Huckabee, the former presidential candidate, endorsing the repeal of the health-care reform bill passed in 2010.

The commercial states that the plan was rammed down the throat of the American people in the middle of the night in dark rooms. The fact is that the plan had been debated and amended for over a year.

The Democrats from the outset tried to make the process as open as possible, but this only allowed the Republican leadership unfairly to stall the process and whittle down the bill.

While this was happening, private conservative groups did what they could to stop the public from being informed on the issue and stop debate on the issue by aggressively disrupting public meetings. Many times during these meetings, conservative attendees would menacingly shout down other audience members, sometimes even becoming violent.

Republican leaders rarely objected publicly to these tactics and sometimes supported them, making slanderous statements such as claiming the bill contained provisions for death panels.

In the end, the Democrats’ good intentions left them vulnerable, and they had to use defensive tactics that some people interpreted as unfair to pass the bill.

Many people would like to argue this shows the Democrats shoved the bill down the throat of the American people or at least shows the Democrats are just as unfair as the Republicans.

To say that is the same as saying that people who are repeatedly arrested for drunken driving are the same as most everyone else, as nearly everyone gets traffic tickets.

It would be nice if the Democrats had taken every opportunity to act like gentlemen during the discussions of the bill, but the truth is when one side takes nearly every opportunity to play dirty, the other side can’t always be perfect gentlemen.

**Steve Bellman**

Akron