

I don't understand why Mitt Romney is being taken seriously as a candidate for the American presidency. It is common knowledge that he took the time to devise this healthcare plan for his patrons in Massachusetts, even consulting with renowned MIT economist Jonathan Gruber to iron out the details; then in a political turn to try and make his new political party feel better about his choices, he tries to tear down the very architecture that he helped to create and then sign into law. Whereas President Obama has demonstrated that his thought process on marriage equality has evolved from what it was to what it is now, Mitt Romney is doing everything he can to ignore the fact that he once stood for a more inclusive health plan. *What?*

Another issue I have is with the idea of "states' rights." Before, I basically accepted the hypothesis that there were some issues that were better left up to each of the fifty states to decide for themselves, but now that I'm thinking about it, I don't think it makes sense *a priori* for the states to be an intermediary between the federal government and individuals when it comes to the doling out of "rights." There is an economic concept called Tiebout sorting, claiming that people will essentially decide where to live such that their values and valuations of certain public goods matches up with that of a local government, and this will result in everyone living in a place where they're paying exactly what they want to for property taxes, health care, public roads, etc. I don't think this holds though; I feel like people (at least in my demographic) end up living where they do as a consequence of two major things: preferences for weather and the prevalence of employment. If this is true, then randomly making the state's in charge of deciding what's fair for healthcare will just end up in a bunch of people being

forced to move or cheat the system to get the healthcare they want. My opinion is to let the federal government intervene and finally prioritize people's health over their bank accounts.

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