

DR. RIVIERA MEETS THE JIGSAW KILLER

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One could discern from recent statements that it seems that the President fosters an opinion of our nation's medical profession that is a cross between Dr. Nick Riviera from the *Simpsons* and the Jigsaw Killer from the *Saw* movies. Should we give the **Commander in Chief** the benefit of the doubt on this debacle? Should we chalk it up to an idiot speechwriter or a teleprompter that caught some sort of idiot computer virus? I know many physicians that would disagree with either assessment. So...I will leave it up to you to decide...

Example #1

"You come in and you've got a bad sore throat, or your child has a bad sore throat or has repeated sore throats. The doctor may look at the reimbursement system and say to himself, you know what? I make a lot more money if I take this kid's tonsils out."

Example #2

The president states that doctors would rather cut off a diabetic's foot than treat the patient because of higher fee revenue for amputations. ***"Family care physicians collect \$30,000, \$40,000, \$50,000 for amputations while the reimbursement for helping patients lose weight, watch their diets and monitor their medication is a pittance."***

This is wrong on so many levels.

My son had his tonsils taken out, and our pediatrician most certainly didn't order the surgery for a kick back from the surgeon. The decision was not taken lightly and was decided upon after all other options were exhausted. As for those saw-crazy doctors...The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons noted that ***"surgeons are neither reimbursed by Medicare, nor any provider for that matter, for foot amputations at rates anywhere close to \$50,000, \$40,000 or even \$30,000."*** The reality lies between \$700-\$1,200, including follow-up care for 90 days.

The idea that physicians will perform tonsillectomies, amputations or any other procedure so they can purchase a new Mercedes S-Class is insane. Demonizing physicians in Saul Alinsky fashion to push ones agenda is beyond reproach.

Source Material:
Staff [Dr. Obama's Tonsillectomy](#), *Wall Street Journal* 07/26/09
Staff [Greedy Sawbones](#), *Investor's Business Daily* 08/17/09