

TEXTO

Obama to hold healthcare summit

US President Barack Obama will hold a televised, summit-style meeting to discuss healthcare reform with both Democratic and Republican lawmakers.

Speaking on CBS News, he said the discussions would aim to explore the "best ideas", "step-by-step".

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said "shelving" the bill would be best to reach consensus.

Mr Obama has made healthcare a centrepiece of his presidency but has so far failed to get a new law enacted.

The loss of a Senate seat in Massachusetts in January to Republican Scott Brown deprived the Democrats of their filibuster-proof 60-seat majority in the Senate.

"If we can go step-by-step through a series of these issues and arrive at some agreements, then procedurally there's no reason why we can't do it a lot faster than the process took last year," Mr Obama said in an interview broadcast in peak time just before the annual Super Bowl American football match.

Cutting costs

The president insisted that it was crucial for the US economy to tackle the healthcare issue to rein in costs over the long-term.

"If we can start bending the cost curves on healthcare, that's the most important thing we can do to deal with the deficits long-term," Mr Obama said.

Last week, the US president unveiled a budget which included a forecast of a \$1.6tn deficit for the 2010 fiscal year and a shortfall of \$1.3tn in 2011.

He said he would seek specific answers from Republicans on how they would propose to lower costs, extend coverage to the uninsured and revise insurance rules which currently block those with pre-existing conditions from getting coverage.

The half-day meeting will take place on 25 February, after a congressional break between 15 to 19 February.

The move comes after complaints that Mr Obama's efforts have been too partisan and secretive.

Republicans welcomed the debate, but suggested that the only way to reach agreement would be to scrap the existing bill.

"If we are to reach a bipartisan consensus, the White House can start by shelving the current health spending bill," Mr McConnell said.

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Obama to hold healthcare summit

US President Barack Obama will hold a televised, summit-style meeting to discuss healthcare reform with both Democratic and Republican lawmakers.

O Presidente Barack Obama estará num reunião televisionada para discutir a reforma da Saúde com os legisladores Democratas e Republicanos.

Speaking on CBS News, he said the discussions would aim to explore the "best ideas", "step-by-step".

Falando para a CBS News, ele disse que as discussões poderiam apontar para explorar as “melhores idéias”, “passo a passo”.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said "shelving" the bill would be best to reach consensus.

Mitch McConnell, líder do Senado Republicano, disse “arquivar” o projeto de lei poderia ser o melhor para alcançar o consenso.

Mr Obama has made healthcare a centrepiece of his presidency but has so far failed to get a new law enacted.

O Senhor Obama fez da Saúde a peça chave de sua presidência, mas falhou para legalizar a nova lei.

The loss of a Senate seat in Massachusetts in January to Republican Scott Brown deprived the Democrats of their filibuster-proof 60-seat majority in the Senate.

A perda da cadeira no Senado em Massachusetts em janeiro para o Republicano Scott Brown privou os Democratas de sua maioria no Senado.

"If we can go step-by-step through a series of these issues and arrive at some agreements, then procedurally there's no reason why we can't do it a lot faster than the process took last year," Mr Obama said in an interview broadcast in peak time just before the annual Super Bowl American football match.

“Se nós podemos seguir passo a passo através de uma séria desses problemas e chegar a alguns acordos, depois não há razão porque não podemos fazer isso mais rápido do que processo do ano anterior”, disse o Senhor Obama em uma entrevista numa rede antes da final anual do Super Bowl do futebol americano.

Cutting costs

The president insisted that it was crucial for the US economy to tackle the healthcare issue to rein in costs over the long-term.

O presidente insistiu que era crucial para a economia dos EUA resolver o problema de Saúde para controlar os custos de longo prazo.

"If we can start bending the cost curves on healthcare, that's the most important thing we can do to deal with the deficits long-term," Mr Obama said.

“Se nós podemos começar dobrando a curva de custo da Saúde, essa é a mais importante coisa que nós podemos negociar com os déficits de longo prazo”, disse o Senhor Obama.

Last week, the US president unveiled a budget which included a forecast of a \$1.6tn deficit for the 2010 fiscal year and a shortfall of \$1.3tn in 2011.

Na última semana, o presidente dos EUA revelou um orçamento o qual incluiu uma previsão de 1,6 trilhões de dólares de déficit para o ano fiscal de 2010 e um complemento de 1,3 trilhões de dólares em 2011.

He said he would seek specific answers from Republicans on how they would propose to lower costs, extend coverage to the uninsured and revise insurance rules which currently block those with pre-existing conditions from getting coverage.

Ele disse que ele poderia procurar respostas específicas para os Republicanos sobre como eles propõem a redução dos custos, a extensão da cobertura para não segurados e revisão de regras de seguros o quais sempre bloqueiam aqueles com condições pré-existentes para conseguir cobertura.

The half-day meeting will take place on 25 February, after a congressional break between 15 to 19 February.

O meio dia de reunião acontecerá em 25 de fevereiro, após uma parada do congresso entre 15 e 19 de fevereiro.

The move comes after complaints that Mr Obama's efforts have been too partisan and secretive. A medida chega após queixas de que os esforços do Senhor Obama têm sido muito partidário e reservado.

Republicans welcomed the debate, but suggested that the only way to reach agreement would be to scrap the existing bill.

Republicanos receberam bem o debate, mas sugeriram que o único caminho para alcançar um acordo seria descartar o projeto de lei existente.

"If we are to reach a bipartisan consensus, the White House can start by shelving the current health spending bill," Mr McConnell said.

“Se nós estamos para alcançar um consenso bipartidário, a Casa Branca pode começar pelo arquivamento do corrente projeto de lei de gastos com Saúde”, disse o Senhor McConnell.

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