

## **Vitter: Time for OPM to Fess Up on Washington's Obamacare Exemption**

*Vitter announced he's blocking Cobert's nomination until answers received*

**(Washington, D.C.)** – Today, U.S. Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) announced he is blocking Beth Cobert to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Additionally, Vitter sent Cobert a follow up letter in light of her failure to respond to his February 3, 2016 letter, which requested information regarding Washington's Obamacare Exemption. Vitter said he'll continue blocking Cobert's nomination until she responds to his request for information.

“As much as federal bureaucrats enjoy hiding behind layers of red tape, we have now reached the point where OPM can no longer avoid explaining how Congress was allowed to purchase health insurance as a small business – when it clearly is not,” said Vitter. “Ms. Cobert's nomination will not move forward in any capacity until the American people have received answers as to why Washington's Obamacare Exemption exists.”

As Chairman of the Senate Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee, Vitter has been investigating how the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives were allowed to apply to the DC Healthlink small business exchange in order to receive special Obamacare subsidies available for only small businesses. [Click here to read more.](#)

On February 10, Vitter sent a letter to John Koskinen, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), requesting clarification as to whether Congress is a large employer or a small employer in regards to Members of Congress and congressional staff receiving health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. Congressional employees have started receiving new IRS tax forms that contradict prior claims that Congress is a small business, with Congressional employees also receiving a special taxpayer-funded subsidy that is unavailable to other Americans at the same income level. [Click here to read more.](#)

In addition to his previous questions, in his letter, Vitter asks Cobert to confirm whether Congress is a small business or a large employer. [Click here to read Vitter's letter.](#)

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U. S. S E N A T O R  
**David Vitter** 