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**Op-Ed Columnist**

## **Impatiently Waiting**

**By CHARLES M. BLOW**

When, Mr. President? When will your deeds catch up to your words? The people who worked tirelessly to get you elected are getting tired of waiting. According to a Gallup poll [released on Wednesday](#), Americans' satisfaction with the way things are going in the country has hit a six-month low, and those decreases were led, in both percentage and percentage-point decreases, by Democrats and independents, not by Republicans.

The fierce urgency of now has melted into the maddening wait for whenever.

Take health care reform. Because of the president's quixotic quest for bipartisanship, he refused to take a firm stand in favor of the public option. In that wake, Democrats gutted the Baucus bill to win the graces of Olympia Snowe — a Republican senator from a state with [half the population of Brooklyn](#), a senator who is defying the will of her own constituents. [A poll conducted earlier this month](#) found that 57 percent of Maine residents support the public option and only 37 percent oppose it.

She is certainly living up to the state's motto: *Dirigo*. That's Latin for "I lead." And the Democrats have followed. For shame.

When will the president take the risk of standing up for his convictions on health care instead

of sacrificing good policies for good politics? (Or maybe not even good politics since a one-sided compromise is the same as a surrender.)

And health care is only one example.

On the same weekend that [gay rights protesters marched](#) past the White House, the president again said that his administration was “[moving ahead on don’t ask don’t tell](#).” But when? This month? This year? This term?

As we prepare to [draw down troops](#) from the disaster that was the war in Iraq, we [may commit more troops](#) to the quagmire that is the war in Afghanistan and the government may miss its deadline for closing the blight that is the prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

Obama pledged to stem the tide of job losses and foreclosures and to reform the culture of the financial sector. Well, the Dow just hit 10,000 again while the [national unemployment rate](#) is about to hit 10 percent. And the firms we propped up are set to [dole out record bonuses](#) while home foreclosures have [hit record highs](#). Main Street is still drowning in crisis while Wall Street is awash in Champagne. When will this imbalance be corrected?

Candidate Obama [pledged to make the rebuilding of New Orleans](#) a priority, but President Obama whisked into the city on Thursday for a visit so brief that [one Louisiana congressman](#) [dubbed](#) it a “drive-through daiquiri summit.” The president spent more time on the failed Olympic bid in Copenhagen than he did in the Crescent City.

At [the town hall in New Orleans](#), Obama appealed for patience. He said, “Change is hard, and big change is harder.” Is that the excuse? Now where have I heard that before? Oh, yeah. [From George Bush](#).

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