

REPUBLICAN PRESCRIPTION FOR DISASTER

Myths vs. Facts on Health Care Reform

While House Committees continue working to reform the American health care system by reducing out-of-control costs, expanding coverage, improving quality, and preserving choice of plan and provider, some Republicans are looking for ways to oppose health care reform. The group working to defeat reform is content with the status quo—turning their backs on families and businesses, and jeopardizing our economic recovery and fiscal future. But rather than put forward viable solutions, these Republicans are using myths to promote their agenda and block Democratic attempts at reform.

GOP MYTH: Health reform means fewer choices for Americans.

“[O]ne thing we know for sure is that a one-size-fits-all government takeover of health care will result in fewer choices for patients.” – Rep. Lynn Jenkins (R-KS), 6/11/2009

FACT: The House proposal will increase choice, giving Americans access to an array of high-quality private plans and a public health insurance option. Most importantly, if you like what you have, you can keep it. More Americans will have access to greater choices in doctors and plans by taking away the insurance industry's ability to deny coverage and care based on pre-existing conditions, and age or health status.



GOP MYTH: Health reform means bureaucrats will ration health care.

“Democrats are touting a government-run health care option that ... [puts] Washington bureaucrats in charge of family health care decisions.” – Republican Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA), 6/15/2009

FACT: The House proposal will expand and improve the availability of quality health care for all Americans. Under this proposal, doctors, nurses and patients will make medical decisions, not big insurance companies or the government. Republicans content with the status quo want to leave patients at the mercy of an industry that makes decisions based on profits not patients.



GOP MYTH: Health reform means Americans will be forced out of their current plans.

“The Democrats' emerging bill...amounts to a government takeover of health care, and it would force millions of Americans off their own plans and into a government-sponsored plan.” – Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH), 6/11/2009

FACT: The House proposal builds on what works – the employer-based system – while giving every American the peace of mind of knowing that their health needs will be covered by insurance. No one will have to worry about being denied insurance based on a pre-existing condition, or being uninsured if their employer drops coverage, they lose their job, or change employers. In making their claims about the erosion of employer-sponsored care, Republicans cite an analysis of a proposal that is nothing like any of the health reform proposals currently before Congress.

GOP MYTH: Health reform means individuals will be forced to buy insurance they can't afford.

“Rates for private health plans would...skyrocket, leaving companies and individuals unable to afford it.” – Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY), 6/3/09

FACT: Millions of Americans cannot afford insurance today or are locked out of the system because of a preexisting condition. The House proposal emphasizes shared responsibility among individuals, businesses and the government and helps make coverage affordable and available to all. Affordability credits will be available to help low- and moderate- income working families afford coverage, regardless of the plan they choose.



GOP MYTH: Health reform will force businesses to cut jobs and squeeze small businesses.

“Government-controlled health care...will cost jobs and not help hard-working families receive the health care they need.” – Rep. Roy Blunt (R-MO), 6/15/09

FACT: All businesses will benefit from insurance market reforms and a high performing health system that will reduce costs of healthcare. The status quo is unsustainable for businesses. Under the House proposal, employers will continue to offer their employees healthcare or contribute towards coverage. Certain small businesses would be exempt from this requirement. With tax credits and a reformed market that ensures access to affordable coverage, small business owners and their employees will have new options to purchase affordable health insurance that are not available to them now.



GOP MYTH: Health reform that builds on Medicare and Medicaid will only hurt the programs' long-term sustainability, and cost state and federal governments more.

“With health security threatened by the unsustainable growth of Medicare and Medicaid, serious reform of these programs is no longer an option.” – Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), 6/11/09

FACT: Health reform is a critical first step toward containing healthcare costs for business, individuals, and the federal government in Medicare and Medicaid. By eliminating wasteful overpayments to private plans under Medicare, reforming how doctors are reimbursed, and creating new incentives for coordinated, high quality care we will extend Trust Fund solvency and improve Medicare for generations to come.