



Family Concerns

"Bridging the Information Gap"

A Publication of Concerned Women for America of Kansas

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Let the Debate Begin:

Now is Not the Time to be Discouraged

Healthcare legislation to be debated; contact your senators while they are home

The Senate was held hostage by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada) with another unprecedented Saturday vote. Ransom money was paid to several recalcitrant senators whose votes were needed to obtain the 60 votes needed for cloture. The stage has been set for the debate since we were unable to prevent that all-important cloture vote. Like his counterpart in the House, Nancy Pelosi (D-California), our tax dollars were being thrown around like they were really worth something. Wouldn't you all love to be able to get what you want by bribing someone with somebody else's money? From Medicaid dollars to funding a medical school, the "carrots" offered by the House and Senate leadership have been snapped up even though there are no guarantees the bribes will be enough to hold the votes together in the long run.

Let your voice be heard!

This is where you come in; there is nothing (besides money) more attention-getting for politicians than unhappy and informed constituents who share their thoughts with them. Currently, those in power are hoping that the American public will yawn and/or throw in the towel and let the government take over one-sixth of our economy, not to mention our personal medical choices. It is amazing to me that the very people who proclaim "choice" as their slogan are more than willing to take our medical choices away from us.

What the bill does

The current over 2000-page, crafted-behind-closed-doors legislation is rife with problems. It includes a public option, funding for abortion, fines for those who do not subscribe to a government-funded/approved insurance plan and increased taxes for married couples who jointly make \$250,000 annually. Those who live together without being married can make up to \$200,000 *each* before they suffer any tax increase. According to CWA's legislative department, the result of Reid's health care legislation would:

- Leave 24 million without insurance
- Cause five million to lose their employer health care coverage
- Cut Medicare by \$464.6 billion

New Bureaucracy

In addition, the Senator Reid Health care bill introduces over 100 new bureaucracies into our government. One senator estimated these 100 bureaucracies would cause the government to add 100,000 new administrators. Most of these will form a wall of bureaucracy between patients and their doctors. Some of the new bureaucracies are:

- Health Benefits Advisory Committee
- Health Insurance Exchange
- Public Health Insurance Option
- Center for Comparative Effectiveness Research
- Comparative Effectiveness Research Commission
- Patient Ombudsman for Comparative Effectiveness Research
- Accountable Care Organization Pilot Program
- Community Based medical Home Pilot Program
- Independent Patient Centered medical Home Pilot Program
- Qualified health Benefits Plan Ombudsman
- Grant Program for Health Insurance Cooperatives
- Telehealth Advisory Committee
- Prevention and Wellness Trust
- Personal Care Attendant Workforce Advisory Panel
- Community Prevention Stakeholders Board

How will it be paid for?

According to the Conservative Action Project, of which CWA is a member, in order to pay for this new tier of bureaucracies, there will have to be new taxes totaling nearly \$800 billion. Presently only 38 percent of Americans support the health care proposals; yet the current administration continues to press forward with their plans for a "Christmas present" for the American people according to Speaker Pelosi.

Squeezing out insurance companies

According to The Heritage Foundation WebMemo, "The Obama Health Care Plan: A Closer Look at Cost and Coverage" by Greg D'Angelo and Paul Winfree the research shows that "the Obama plan would cover roughly half of the 45 million uninsured through an expansion of public coverage; rely on soft methods of cost savings, and require significant increases in federal expenditures." According to the Lewin Group "while 21.6 million people would lose their private health insurance, 48.3 million people are projected to obtain public coverage through Medicaid, SCHIP or the new proposed public option. The end result of the expansion of coverage under the Obama plan would be driven by enrollment in public coverage, crowding out existing private non-group and private employer-sponsored insurance." In spite of undermining private and employer sponsored insurance both the House and Senate bills would impose an employer mandate for employers who do not offer coverage and for those whose benefits do not meet a new federal standard.

ACTION

Call Senators Brownback and Roberts at their local offices and urge them to continue to oppose this legislation. Thank them for their support and encourage them to continue to reject this government intrusion into our lives.