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TELL ME WHERE IT HURTS

The Boston Globe

Mass. numbers crunched

August 16, 2009

THE AUG. 5 editorial "[Mass. bashers take note: Health reform is working](#)" states that "the cost to the state taxpayer" of the Massachusetts health reforms is "about \$88 million a year." In fact, the cost to state taxpayers is 19 times that amount, while the total cost is 24 times that amount.

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation explains that the \$88 million figure represents not the total cost to the state government, but the average annual increase in the state government's costs.

Worse, the editorial ignores new spending by the federal government and the private sector, which account for 80 percent of the law's cost.

According to Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation estimates, health reform will cost at least \$2.1 billion in 2009. The total cost to state taxpayers is at least \$1.7 billion and growing. (The fact that other states' taxpayers bear the balance should not be a source of pride.)

One wonders how such a distortion comes to appear on a leading editorial page.

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