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Writer distorted facts about Cato;

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Barbara Kussow's Friday letter "Readers should know Cato's background," which attacked the Cato Institute's position on health-care policy, contains both errors and misrepresentations.

By the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office's own admission, its scoring of President Barack Obama's health-care bill omits hundreds of billions of dollars in long-term costs.

These include \$115 billion for implementation measures, such as new Internal Revenue Service agents to enforce the individual mandate, \$350 billion for the so-called doc fix -- and the list goes on.

The CBO was required to assume a 23 percent cut in Medicare funding that no one believes will actually occur. In fact, legislation already has been introduced to repeal those cuts.

The CBO also acknowledges that its score double-counts projected savings in Medicare, as well as new Social Security taxes.

Correcting for these omissions shows that Obamacare actually costs more than \$2.7 trillion over 10 years and adds more than \$800 billion to the deficit over that period.

Kussow also was inaccurate about Cato's founding and the source of its funding. The Cato Institute was founded by Ed Crane and Charles Koch in 1977. Crane remains president and chief executive officer.

While Koch was a major contributor for many years, he and Crane had a falling-out in 1991, after which Koch continued to support Cato only modestly (about 1 percent of Cato's budget) until 2010, when his support ceased.

Today, 97 percent of Cato's funding for operations comes from 20,000 supporters unrelated to the Kochs or their affiliates or foundations.

Overall corporate support (Koch Industries does not support Cato) is about 2 percent of our budget.

KHRISTINE BROOKES

Vice president of communications

Cato Institute

Washington

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