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September 13, 2010

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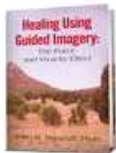
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When I read the title of Michael F. Cannon's piece at Cato, "[ObamaCare's Threat to Free Speech](#)," I wasn't the least bit surprised; I had already read Michael Barone's "[Gangster Government Stifles Criticism of Obamacare](#)" and had recognized the beginning of Obama's war on free speech back in October 09 when the Obama Administration actually [co-sponsored an anti-free speech resolution](#) at the United Nations, aimed mostly at stifling criticism of Islam. However, what I found interesting about Cannon's piece was that he offers a summary of reactions from others on Kathleen Sebelius' letter to the health insurance lobby, in which she attempts to stifle political speech by using the new powers that ObamaCare grants her to threaten health insurance companies that claim ObamaCare's coverage mandates are one cause behind rising premiums. *(As Cannon points out - never mind the fact that insurers' estimates -- which project that ObamaCare will increase premiums in 2011 by as much as 9 percent -- are in line with those put forward by HHS.).*

Here's a sampling of the "smattering of reactions from others" that Cannon offers:

- **The Wall Street Journal:** "The Health and Human Services secretary" warned that "there will be zero tolerance for this type of misinformation and unjustified rate increases." Zero tolerance for expressing an opinion, or offering an explanation to policyholders? They're more subtle than this in Caracas."
- **Chicago Tribune:** "President Obama's health care reform plan, enacted in March, is not terribly popular with the American people ... The administration can't tell the public to stop grouching. It can, however, try to silence health insurers who have the nerve to say out loud what basic economic theory indicates" Apparently, harsh punishment is in store for anyone who refuses to parrot the administration line. But there is every reason to think this alleged libel is true."
- **Tyler Cowen:** "Nowhere is it stated that these rate hikes are against the law (even if you think they should be), nor can this 'misinformation' be against the law [The letter] is worse than I had been expecting."
- **Ed Morrissey:** "Rarely have we heard a Cabinet official tell Americans to stay out of political debates at the risk of losing their businesses. It points out the danger in having government run industries and holding a position where politicians can

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» 2 hours ago

şeyda

i m pitying you

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