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Fighting to Preserve Liberty in America

# Cato Assesses ObamaCare

by Bill O'Connell on April 16, 2011

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*(This is the last of a series of articles focusing on topics presented at the Cato Policy Perspectives 2011 conference held at New York's Waldorf Astoria hotel on Friday, April 8, 2011)*

“What a difference a year makes” is short assessment of ObamaCare presented by Michael Cannon of the Cato Institute. “It cannot be fixed, it has to be repealed,” was his blunt conclusion.

As long as you are not Rip Van Winkle you should know by now that as Nancy Pelosi famously said, “We have to pass the bill, to find out what is in it.” Well, we’re finding out. We found out that it was true ObamaCare does double count \$500 billion in savings, there are thousands of organizations asking for waivers from the program, and the individual mandate has been struck down by several courts.

Mr. Cannon pointed out that the individual mandate requires people to obtain more healthcare than they want and he also described several case studies:

- Deamonte Driver — He was on Medicaid. He had a toothache. He couldn’t find a dentist that took Medicaid patients. The infection from his abscess spread to his brain. He died.
- Draven Smith — He was expelled from school twice in four years. He could not find a doctor under Medicaid to deal with his behavioral health problem.

ObamaCare is pitching bringing all uninsured people under Medicaid and Medicare. This was the big solution to our national health care problem. I don’t think Deamonte or Draven would agree.

Two other case studies pointed to the perverse incentives for insurance companies to drop certain kinds of coverage such as 24 hour nursing service because it attracts sick people. Child only coverage is being dropped across the country. Doctors are seeing reimbursement rates being curtailed so they are not accepting Medicare

patients.

It is almost as if ObamaCare is designed to destroy the health care system we have in this country so that a government run system will have to step into the void. As an example, it effectively killed an insurance [product](#) that would have guaranteed that the insured could get coverage at some time in the future. Isn't that one of the major complaints about our current health care system? The free market came up with a solution, but it has since been dropped because of ObamaCare.

Repeal and replace.

Not to leave this subject on a grim note, I had the privilege of meeting economist Mark Skousen at the event and he told me that he was the star of a recent video I had seen parodying ObamaCare. I share it with you here.

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**Liberty's Lifeline**

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**Liberty's Lifeline** Went to see Atlas Shrugged last night. Well done. I was wondering how effectively they would incorporate the railroad theme in a movie taking place in 2016, but they handled it well. And no, my progressive friends, this is not an endorsement of President Obama's high speed rail fantasies. This movie is part one of three...

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