



Policy expert: Obama's offer to states a pretense



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The director of health policy studies at the CATO Institute is dismissing an offer by the White House for states to design their own healthcare plans in place of ObamaCare.

President Obama is offering to let states opposed to the healthcare overhaul design their own plans -- provided they fulfill the goals of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

"If you can come up with a better system for your state to provide coverage of the same quality and affordability of the Affordable Care Act, you can take that route instead," he said earlier today. He added another requirement: if a state can provide the same coverage "without increasing the deficit," it can implement that plan.

Michael Cannon at the [CATO Institute](#) admits he is surprised by the president's audacity. Obama, he says, is merely "pretending" to be listening to concerns from the states -- and that he is interested in reducing the cost of his law.



"All he's doing is offering states the flexibility to impose something as coercive and costly, or more coercive and costly, as his own law," says Cannon.

Under the president's offer, the individual state plans would have to cover at least as many residents as ObamaCare, and benefits would have to be equally comprehensive and affordable.

"Put simply," the Cato spokesman explains, "he's giving the states the flexibility to choose a single-payer healthcare system over ObamaCare -- and that's really no flexibility at all."

Cannon says it is another reason why this law is "unworkable" and unfixable for the states.



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