

# 'Small business' Congress? ObamaCare's ruse

May 28, 2015

In what alternate reality does Congress conceivably qualify as a “small business”? It does in the alternate reality of ObamaCare.

Remember the dust-up when Democrat lawmakers learned that under the Affordable Care Act, they effectively voted themselves and their staffs out of existing subsidies under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program? Amid the wailing and gnashing of teeth, the Obama administration's Office of Personnel Management (OPM) rode in, assuring in August 2013 that lawmakers and their staffs would get subsidies.

OPM declared Congress eligible to enroll in the D.C. SHOP (Small Business Health Options Program), which, as the name implies, is reserved for small businesses, writes Robert Moffit of The Heritage Foundation. He calls it “a textbook example of administrative creativity untrammelled by statutory restraint.”

Michael Cannon of the Cato Institute goes a step further: He calls access to the special subsidies a “bribe” to keep Congress from reopening ObamaCare. And it's working.

When Sen. David Vitter, R-La., demanded documents from the District of Columbia Health Benefits Exchange regarding this arrangement, the Senate's Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee voted resoundingly (14-5) to quash the effort, calling it a “distraction,” Mr. Moffit notes.

Given an unrelenting series of ObamaCare distractions, Americans should be taking more notice.