

American Family Filter by bsecure™
Affordable Online Peace of Mind
 Ultimate Internet family protection for less than 5 dollars a month!
www.afafilter.com

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Using scare tactic to gain ObamaCare support

Bill Bumpas - OneNewsNow - 9/16/2010 4:00:00 AM [ADD THIS](#)

President Obama's top health official has put the insurance industry on notice that the administration will not tolerate blaming premium hikes on the new health overhaul law -- a threat one policy analyst believes is meant to control the free speech of insurance companies.



In a recent [letter](#) sent to the insurance lobby, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius warned that there will be "zero tolerance" on faulting ObamaCare for rate hikes.

"Now anyone who studies economics knows that when ObamaCare requires insurance companies to cover more services, that's going to increase premiums," notes Michael Cannon, director of health policy studies at the [Cato Institute](#).



Sebelius also stated that "bad actors" may be excluded from new health insurance markets, which will open in 2014 under the law.

"That is a very serious threat; that could put insurance companies out of business," Cannon warns. But he feels that intimidation is just the beginning.

"I think what she's really trying to do here is send a warning to the insurance companies that when the really big premium increases hit in 2014 -- because that's when ObamaCare takes full effect -- she had better not hear from any of them that ObamaCare is increasing premiums by 10, 15, 17...30 percent, as a lot of private analysts have estimated," he speculates.

Cannon further deems Secretary Sebelius' action troubling. "What she's doing here is chilling political speech and, I think, violating the First Amendment to the Constitution," he decides.

The Cato Institute director concludes that the economic freedom of business is sacrificed when the government is given control over the economy.

Read related commentary by Michelle Malkin
['The ObamaCare inquisitions: A brief, brutish history'](#)

[SUBSCRIBE to Our Podcast](#)
[facebook](#)
[twitter](#)

[Hear Report](#)
[Email This Story](#)
[Print This Story](#)

ONENEWSNOW VIDEO
[Tropical Weather](#)
[Mi Darth Vader](#)
[Australia Snow](#)

American Family Filter
 Since 2001 Filter by bsecure™
 ✓Trusted
 ✓Affordable
 ✓Proven
Safeguard Your Family from Pornography
www.afafilter.com

AP LATEST HEADLINES
[Tropical Storm Karl heads to Gulf of Mexico](#)
[AP-GfK Poll: Nearly half oppose tax hikes for rich](#)
[One for the establishment: Ayotte wins NH GOP nod](#)
[Wis. prosecutor who 'sexted' victim won't resign](#)
[States cutting benefits for public-sector retirees](#)
[AP Headlines RSS](#)