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Thursday, March 18, 2010



Forward

ObamaCare: An Ugly Process, and It Will Only Get Uglier

36

by Michael F. Cannon

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If healthcare passes, do you believe the Supreme Court will over turn the legislation because it is unconstitutional?

- C Yes, but it will take years
- O No, once government grows, it

Even President Obama himself has described his attempt to overhaul health care as "an ugly process."

Count on things getting even uglier when the final vote occurs this weekend. In the pressure cooker of a final vote, the president and his allies will add even more

Here's what supporters have done (so far) to advance their legislation:

for a government takeover of health care.

bribes and arm-twisting to "persuade" members to vote

First, supporters hid more than half of the cost of their legislation.



Remember how in 2003, the Bush administration suppressed an unflattering cost estimate of its Medicare prescription drug benefit by threatening to fire

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is extremely difficult to limit or reverse passed legislation



Michael F. Cannon: ObamaCare: An U... Medicare's chief actuary? That was bad enough. But what supporters of the Obama plan have done is an order of magnitude worse.

The Obama plan, like President Clinton's in 1993, would impose huge mandates on the private sector. Democratic economists, including Obama advisor Larry Summers, acknowledge these are essentially taxes. In 1994, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that those taxes accounted for 60 percent of the Clinton plan's cost.

This time, supporters manipulated the CBO's rules to prevent the agency from tallying those taxes, effectively hiding \$1.5 trillion of the bill's \$2.5 trillion cost.

Second, supporters changed the rules to suit their partisan purposes.

In 2004, Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) orchestrated a change in Massachusetts law to prevent a Republican governor from nominating Republicans to fill any vacant Senate seats.

In 2009, the Massachusetts legislature changed the law back, again at Kennedy's request, so that a Democratic governor could nominate a Democrat to replace Kennedy, whose death was imminent. That blatantly partisan "switch in time" provided the crucial 60th vote necessary to advance the legislation at a critical moment.

Third, a small minority of left-wing radicals is forcing this legislation on a public that does not want it.

When Massachusetts finally got around to holding that Senate election, public opposition to the legislation was so broad and intense that the Republican won. In Massachusetts. To replace Ted Kennedy.

Democratic pollsters Pat Caddell and Doug Schoen warn that a majority of the public opposes the legislation and that "four-fifths of those who oppose the plan strongly oppose it...while only half of those who support the plan do so strongly." continued...

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About The Author



Michael F. Cannon is the Cato Institute's director of health policy studies.

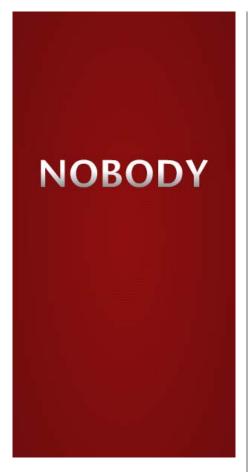
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ObamaCare: An Ugly Process, and It Will Only Get Uglier

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Sky Pete Reply # 1 Location: VA Date: Mar 18, 2010 - 12:25 PM EST

traitorbill

The bill is a sham.

And the process by which it is being enacted is corrupt. I hold my government in contempt

The Republicans have used every parliamentary parlor trick in the books to obstruct the progress of this bill.. They have taken filibustering to record levels on record to exceed the current record 3X

You use your tricks to kill it..

We'll use our tricks to get it through...

Funny how that works -- Huh?

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American

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Mr. Cannon

Agree with your column here, and I also agree with your posting in Cato this morning: http://www.cato-at-liberty.org/2010/03/18/yet-another-frau dulent-cost-estimate/

I do, however, have a question...

If the CBO could not pin down the cost estimate of the Senate proposal, why did Doug Elmendorf's group put out its finding today?

Is it hubris, or just a fundamental lack of integrity to maintain the goal of the CBO?

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