

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.

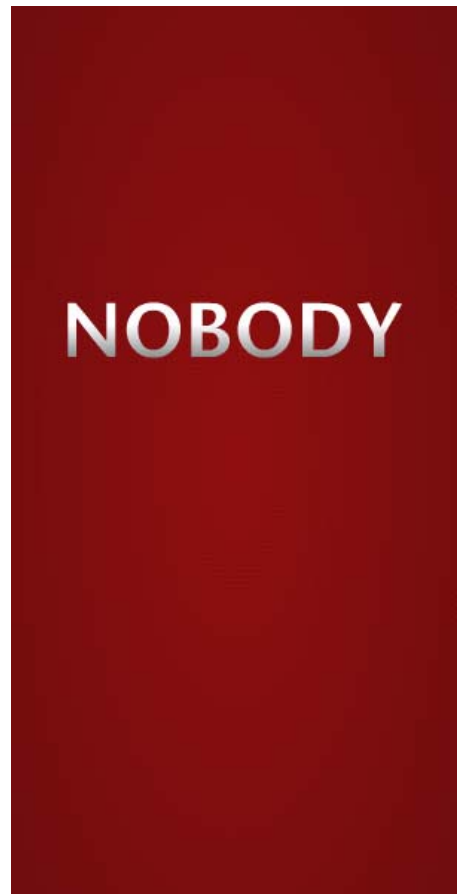
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traitorbill
"

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

ie..

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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Reply # 2

Date: Mar 18, 2010 - 12:23 PM EST

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/another-fraudulent-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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