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The Private Sector Wants To Repeal Health Care And Won't Stay Silent

By **Diana Perkins** on November 23, 2010, 6:19 am

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A forum held recently with several major health care players, including Angela Braly, CEO of insurer WellPoint Inc; William Hawkins,

CEO of Medtronic Inc.; Klaus Kleinfeld, CEO of Alcoa; and Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The four talked about changing the incentives in the health system. Said Braly on delivery system reform: "This really gets to the fact that right now we have a fee-for-service payment system, so we pay for quantity rather than quality. And very importantly, we think we need to redesign the way in which we reimburse for health care. When we do that, we need to take into account the right time, so preventive care, hopefully; the right setting, which might be a hospice at the end of life, it might be a different setting altogether; the right team, so a coordinated, team-based approach to the way that health care is delivered; and the way we reimburse"

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Business Community

The business community also plans to fight new regulations that would fully implement health reform. On Nov. 17, the U.S.

Chamber of Commerce's CEO, Tom Donohue, challenged what the organization calls a "regulatory tsunami" by the government, including the one created by health care. As the health care law is implemented in the coming years, the chamber predicts it will create 183 new agencies, commissions and panels. While the new law sharply expands Americans' access to health care, critics warn of the cost: a CATO Institute report claims that the law will increase taxes by nearly \$670 billion in the coming decade. "We've never seen anything on this scale before," Donohue said, adding, "It defies all logic and common sense." The chamber will hire a regulatory economist and encourage its internal law firm to take a more activist posture in fighting increased regulation.

Healthcare Reform Law

The landmark healthcare reform law that he said will transform America into a tyrannical police state. And about bipartisanship, McConnell said that would only happen if Obama and the Democrats "acknowledge their policies are the problem" and decide to "come in our direction." In other words, get ready for another two-years of blind partisan hatred, obstruction and a dysfunctional senate destroyed by Republicans' unprecedented abuse of the filibuster procedure.

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Private Sector

Government officials are also planning to work much more closely with the private sector, in order to ensure the quick improvement of patient care systems. The process will kick off with a new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMS), which will help physician practices in eight states to coordinate primary-care doctors better. This is based on growing evidence that patients are hospitalised less frequently, suffer fewer complications and recover more quickly if doctors work more closely together.

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