



## Readers should know Cato's background

Friday, April 22, 2011 03:05 AM

*Dispatch* readers should know that the Cato Institute, the source of information used to support last Friday's editorial "More surgery needed," which opposed health-care reform, was formed and funded by the infamous David and Charles Koch, brothers who have been in the news lately.

A reporter called Wisconsin Republican Gov. Scott Walker pretending to be David Koch during the controversy over collective bargaining, and Walker interrupted his duties to cozy up to "Mr. Koch."

These right-wing billionaires have spent many of their billions trying to defeat President Barack Obama's policies.

For people who want more information, the best source is the article "Covert operations" by Jane Mayer in the Aug. 30, 2010, *New Yorker*.

The article reported that the Cato Institute has "consistently pushed for corporate tax cuts, reductions in social services and laissez-faire environmental policies" that favor the Koch industries, which include oil refineries, Brawny paper towels, Dixie cups, Georgia-Pacific lumber, Stainmaster carpet and Lycra, among other products.

The financial impact offered by the Cato Institute differs greatly from the figures given by the Congressional Budget Office, whose analysis is supposed to be nonpartisan and objective. The latest CBO information I have seen is that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is expected to produce a net decrease in the federal deficit of \$210 billion from 2012 through 2021.

It should be said, too, that some of the Koch brothers' billions have gone to fund so-called "grass roots" protests against "Obamacare," stirring up fears, particularly among senior citizens, that the government is going to interfere with their health care.

In fact, the private insurance companies have been interfering with people's health care for many years.

BARBARA KUSSOW

*Columbus*