

## Editor's Picks: What Henry Payne is reading

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*Editor's Picks: What Henry Payne is reading.* Despite a push from Gov. Rick Snyder, Michigan's 2014 budget will not include a massive expansion in Medicaid to 133 percent of poverty in accordance with Obamacare. Given Medicaid's abysmal record of service, that's not a bad thing, writes Michael Cannon at the CATO Institute.

Cannon reports on a landmark study that is rattling the health world. The Oregon Health Insurance Experiment (OHIE), published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* by a team of top health policy scholars, confirms previous research that Medicaid has "generated no significant improvement in measured physical health outcomes."

"There is no way to spin these results as anything but a rebuke to those who are pushing states to expand Medicaid," writes Cannon. "The Obama administration has been trying to convince states to throw more than a trillion additional taxpayer dollars at Medicaid . . . when the best-designed research available cannot find any evidence that it improves the physical health of enrollees."

*Joshua Pugh on The Politics Blog :* Although economists have consistently said that Michigan's economy has been in recovery since 2009, he has continued claiming that the state is in fiscally and economically dire straits. This supposed crisis has been used as an excuse for slash and burn austerity, extracting a pound of flesh from seniors, homeowners and the education budget in order to pay for a \$1.8 billion business tax giveaway. Even a bill kicking LGBT people off their domestic partners' health insurance was justified the same way, blaming a supposed budget crisis for a shameless attack pushed by religious fundamentalists like Dave Agema and Tom McMillin.

Snyder would undoubtedly agree with Paul Romer, who famously said in 2004 that "a crisis is a terrible thing to waste."

*Dan Calabrese on The Politics Blog :* If I wasn't a nice guy, I might think it would be fun to have Sen. Carl Levin's job.

You sit up on raised podium, act high and mighty, wave your arms, look down your nose at people (which is why your glasses are way down there) and excoriate them. Michigan's senior senator has several favorite types of targets — including banking executives, defense contractors and people who do what's necessary to protect America's national security — but he's not picky. Levin's latest crusade has targeted Apple, which apparently has very good accountants and has figured out how to minimize its tax liability by gaming the complicated system designed by people like Carl Levin.