

Government BYTES!

In general, the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other. -- Voltaire

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Health Care Alternatives

Posted by [Andrew Moylan](#) - May 29, 2009

Our good friends at the Cato Institute posted an update on the [Coburn-Burr-Ryan-Nunes health care proposal](#). Cato's health care guru Michael Cannon discussed what the bill would entail:

- Mandate that states create a new regulatory bureaucracy called a "State Health Insurance Exchange,"
- Mandate that all plans offered through those exchanges meet federal regulatory standards,
- Mandate "guaranteed issue" in those exchanges,
- Mandate "uniform and reliable measures by which to report quality and price information,"
- Impose price controls on those plans by prohibiting risk-rating,
- Launch a government takeover of the "insurance" part of health insurance, by means of a "risk-adjustment" program intended to cope with the problems created by price controls, and
- Fall just short of an individual mandate by setting up (mandating?) automatic enrollment in exchange plans at "places of employment, emergency rooms, the DMV, etc." — essentially, trying to achieve universal coverage by nagging Americans to death."

If Michael Cannon is worried, I'm worried. This bill is supposed to be a conservative alternative to potential legislation from the Democrats that will undoubtedly focus on expanding government control of your health care. However, this bill unfortunately contains some warmed-over versions of the kinds of mandates and price controls that conservative health reform advocates have been fighting against all along. The four men whose names appear on the bill are all clearly conservatives, but this is not exactly what most envisioned as the rallying point for the loyal opposition.

I, for one, waiting to see what Senator DeMint (R-SC)

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