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THE BIG QUESTION, July 17: Michael D. Tanner

The Big Question for Friday, July 17 is:

Are the Democrats' health care proposals worth the big price tag?

[Cato Institute Senior Fellow Michael D. Tanner](#), said:

“At a time of rising unemployment and economic stagnation, this costly shift in health care policy is like throwing an anchor to a drowning man.

If one totals up all the new taxes in the House Democratic health reform bill—the income tax surtax, the penalties on businesses that fail to provide and individuals who fail to buy the governments prescribed health care plan, as well as other fees and taxes—the cost to American taxpayers will top \$800 billion.

On top of that, studies suggest that the plan could increase insurance premiums by 75-95 percent. That’s a big cost for a health care plan that will likely lead to Americans receiving less and lower quality health care.

After all, this is a health care plan under which millions of Americans will be forced out of their current health insurance plan and into a government-run plan. It is a plan that limits Americans choices and would almost certainly lead to the eventual rationing of care.

To ask Americans to pay more for the dubious mercies of government-run health care is simply to add insult to injury.”

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