

White House public option ploy: A trial balloon, not a white flag

By Michelle Malkin • August 17, 2009 01:07 AM

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Do you believe the Sunday spin on the White House's alleged "retreat" from the Obamacare public option?

Video of HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius's pooh-poohing of the public option provision is [here](#).

Drudge [illustrated](#) the AP story with a [white flag](#).

Politico says the White House has ["backed away."](#)

I'm not buying the hype. Are you?

The real Obama is a [declared proponent of single-payer and universal health care Trojan Horses](#). All else is political theater.

Late Sunday, the health care czar's office said Sebelius ["misspoke."](#)

It's not a misstatement. It's not a surrender flag. It's a trial balloon to measure the potential [nutroots backlash](#) versus the potential [Senate pick-ups](#).

Besides, the public option provision can always be stuffed back in via a [3am manager's amendment](#) or during the House/Senate conference to reconcile each chamber's Obamacare bills.

As for Democrat Sen. Kent Conrad's health care "co-op" idea, the devil — as always — is in the details.

Edmund Haislmaier pointed out a few weeks ago at [The Foundry](#):

If by health care "co-op," Congress means allowing private associations to collectively buy health insurance for their members or operate a health insurance exchange, or allowing people to buy health insurance from a non-profit, member-owned private insurer, then those would be positive, pro-consumer developments.

However, simply slapping the word "cooperative" onto a new "insurer," but then specifying that the government — not the

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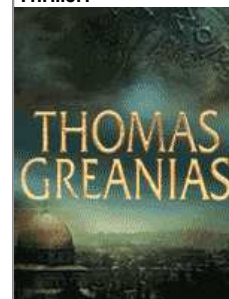
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Howard Dean on CBS this morning:

“It will pass with the public option,” he said, “and the president will sign it sometime in December.”

Categories: [Health care](#)

And from Michael Tanner at Cato: **Co-ops: A ‘Public Option’ By Another Name**

Posted in: **Health care**

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