



THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON KNOWING

Recent News Mini-Players: VIDEO and AUDIO | EMAIL NEWS ALERTS

member supported television news **DONATE**

type in keywords... search

Home About Us Shop Latest News Log In myREALnews Contact Us

## 07-23-2009 TAX THE RICH TO PAY FOR HEALTH CARE?

### Tax the rich to pay for health care?

*Wolff: Rich people do not make an economy strong. What makes the country wealthy is its people.*

July 23 - During a meeting at the White House, last Tuesday, the Blue Dogs, a group of conservative Democrats, refused to support the House health reform bill as long as it includes the surtax on the rich.

In a July 16th letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, first term Democrats expressed their concern over the House Ways and Means Committee statement in HR 3200 that said the bill would "only impact 4.1 percent of small businesses" since "75% of businesses are S-corporations," which means they pay income tax as individuals.

HR 32000 states the new health care reform would be partly funded by savings from Medicare and Medicaid programs, and by taxing the wealthiest 1.2% of Americans.

On the July 20th Today show with Meredith Vieira, President Barack Obama stated his continuing support for the surtax on the richest Americans. "I think that ultimately what we're going to have is a package which will include some additional revenue from well-to-do people so working families, people who are going to their jobs everyday, can have a little bit more security," he said. Obama stated that he did not see the surtax as "punishing the rich."

While the Congressional Budget Office, emphasize that tax cuts are the largest contributor to the reemergence of large budget deficits, conservative critics of the bill caution that the surtax will place crippling burdens on the rich. Dan Mitchell, from the Cato Institute, spoke about the bill on Fox on July 14th, stating that "if you're going to be a parasite, you need a healthy host. You don't want to kill your host...with taxes that are too high, and wasteful government spending, there's not going to be anything to re-distribute."

However, Richard Wolff, professor of economics at University of Massachusetts, tells TRNN that "[over] the last thirty years, the tax on the richest Americans is the tax by the federal government that has fallen the most, from roughly 65% to roughly 35% at the top brackets."

He says that this decrease is significantly lower than the rate of tax cuts on the middle-class and the poor, "whose taxes, if you include Social Security and so on, actually went up."

"Rich people do not make an economy strong. The vast majority of people are workers, and the vast majority of the richest people in the community are not workers. So, if you wish to have a society wealthy, the first and most important thing to do is to provide people with the education, with the good health, with the decent transportation, in other words, all those basic services that can enable them to be productive workers," Wolff says.

to view the complete video, please click here.

For Press Inquiries, please contact:  
Sharmini Peries  
Senior Editorial Board Member  
Email: sharmini@therealnews.com

About The Real News | Employment Opportunities | Press | Terms of Use and Privacy Policy | Donate | DVD Sales

RealNewsNetwork.com, Real News Network, Real News, Real News For Real People, IWT, and Independent World Television are trademarks and service marks of IWT.TV inc. "The Real News" is the flagship show of IWT and Real News Network.



Problems with this site? Please let us know.

