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What's really behind the push for mandatory coverage

Posted by Paul Mulshine August 21, 2009 12:02PM

In my latest column on Medicare I mentioned one expert whose works everyone should be reading.

That's Jagadeesh Gokhale of the Cato Institute. I speak to him frequently because he is an expert on the single most important issue facing America today. That's "generational accounting."

Don't mention that term around a politician. The leaders of both parties love to run up bills that don't come due till they're out of office. And that's what's behind the Medicare mess.

Gokhale's theory, expressed in this article that ran recently in Forbes Magazine, is that the real impetus for the current Democratic effort is the need to use the young as the cash cow for Medicare.

He writes:

"One explanation of the drive toward mandatory health insurance is the need to reinforce funding for Medicare, which is rapidly running out of revenues. The young will consume relatively few medical services, but their mandated coverage would provide a rationale for additional taxes. This is very similar to how Social Security's finances were buttressed repeatedly--by expanding coverage to additional occupations and population groups. It's the reason why the leadership of retiree lobbies is maintaining silence despite the possibility that the new program will introduce cuts in Medicare benefits."

Read the whole thing. And then read Michael Tanner's piece on how mandatory coverage failed in Massachusetts.

Don't tell Mitt Romney, though. He was a big advocate of that plan when he was governor there. He's backpedaling like crazy now, but he'll have a lot of explaining to do if confronted with his 2006 quotes in 2012. One such quote is "All Massachusetts citizens will have health insurance," which he said at the signing.

They don't and they won't. But many have been harassed by the bureaucrats and fined for failing to buy coverage they can't afford.

As the paper notes, at least Mitt can brag that he helped show Obama what not to do.



Mitt Romney: The man behind mandatory coverage will have a lot of explaining to do if he runs in 2012.



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Posted by **Stickenjab** on [08/21/09 at 1:03PM](#)

Tanner's piece is a must read for everyone who wants to be informed about this issue. Thanks for sharing it. Both he and Gokhale will be "researched" by the minions of the liberal MSM in 3,2,1....

Romney has more 'splainin' to do than Lucy Ricardo...

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Posted by **Hawkeye10101** on [08/21/09 at 1:05PM](#)

What's behind this ponzi-scheme Government is quite simple, an insane and corrupt lust for unbridled power.

Our medical system could be "fixed" (to make it nearly perfect) with about a 5-page bill that 90% of the public would support (well, non-political hacks anyway).

- 1 - Medical Savings accounts (personal responsibility)
- 2 - crack-down on illegals (take strain off of hospital administrations)
- 3 - Tax-exempt loans and grants based on income for insurance purchasing
- 4 - Allow interstate competition for purchasing health insurance
- 5 - Hire tens of thousands of people to be trained to investigate and prosecute fraud

There you go, everything fixed. Why in the world do we need to have medical insurance to pay for every dang aspirin we get from a doctor or hospital? You should only need medical insurance for major healthcare actions, not every blood test for pete's sake!

I don't call my car insurance company if I need to get new tires or a tune-up!

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