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Opinion

TRENTONIAN EDITORIAL: Numbers game

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The Obama administration has budgeted \$634 billion to cover the initial projected costs of its medical-care reform. How trustworthy is that number?

The Cato Institute notes that when Medicare was created in 1965, the projection was that Part A would cost \$9 billion by 1990. Actual cost: \$67 billion.

Medicaid's special hospitals subsidy in 1987 was projected to cost \$100 million annually by 1992. Actual cost: \$11 billion.

In 1998 Medicare's home-care benefit was projected to cost \$4 billion in 1993. Actual cost: \$10 billion.

Humorist P.J. O'Rourke may not have been joking when he said: "If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free."

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