

"The Republican Study Committee has become known as a fountain of robust, forward-thinking ideas and bold action," writes **Rep. Tom Price** in a letter sent Monday to every member of the Democratic Caucus.

"In light of public assertions that House Republicans have offered no solutions for health care reform, please see this updated directory of more than 40 health care bills introduced by Republican Study Committee members this year. Thanks for your consideration," the Georgia Republican adds.

WASTE LINE

Oh, woe is us. Consider that the average American family spends \$1,000 each year on the Department of Agriculture, whether or not it uses that agency's services. The agency also employs 96,000 workers in 7,000 offices, and oversees 10,700 pages of regulations. These factoids and other wonders of bloated bureaucracy can be found at www.DownsizingGovernment.org, a nifty new watchdog site launched Monday by the Cato Institute with a focus on inefficiency, ineffectiveness, redundancy and corruption.

"Some people have lofty visions about how government spending can help society," says project leader **Chris Edwards**, director of tax-policy studies at the organization. "The essays on this Web site put aside such bedtime stories about how government programs are supposed to work, and instead focus on how they actually work in the real world."

POLL DU JOUR

- 52 percent of Americans say the H1N1 virus will not have a major impact on the U.S.
- 58 percent of men and 46 percent of women agree.
- 53 percent of Americans overall plan to be vaccinated.
- 41 percent will not be vaccinated.
- 79 percent know the symptoms of the flu and where vaccinations will be offered.

Source: A Deloitte Center for Health Solutions survey of 1,010 adults conducted Sept. 10-13.

- Squeaks, leaks and mystery to [jharper@ washingtontimes.com](mailto:jharper@washingtontimes.com) or 202/636-3085.