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### OPINION

### Beltway Confidential

## BELTWAY CONFIDENTIAL

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### Drug lobby applauds 'reform' passage

By: **TIMOTHY P. CARNEY**  
Examiner Columnist  
03/22/10 7:38 AM EDT

Last night, President Obama cheered the House passage of the health-care bill, and, as normal, claimed "We pushed back on the undue influence of special interests.... We proved that this government -- a government of the people and by the people -- still works for the people." At the same time, the largest industry lobby in the country, also gave the House a standing O:



We continue to believe that comprehensive health care reform will benefit patients and the future of America. That's why we have been involved in this important public policy debate for more than a year and why we support action by the House to approve the Senate-passed bill along with the amendments found in the reconciliation legislation....

Today's important and historic vote in the House will help to expand health care coverage and services to tens of millions of Americans who are uninsured and often forced to forego needed medical treatments.

For your convenience, Doug Badow at the American Spectator has provided an annotated version. The all-caps sections are Badow's additions:

#### PhRMA Statement on Health Care Reform

WASHINGTON, March 22 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), WHICH INVESTED \$100 MILLION TO EXPAND GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, issued the following statement today on passage of comprehensive health care reform and accompanying reconciliation legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives:

"We continue to believe that comprehensive health care reform will benefit OUR MEMBERS BY INCREASING INSURANCE COVERAGE AND THUS THE NUMBER OF PILLS SOLD. FOR THE RECORD, WE ALSO CLAIM THAT THE LEGISLATION WILL BENEFIT patients and the future of America. TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS IS why we have been involved in this important public policy debate for more than a year and why we CUT A DEAL WITH THE WHITE HOUSE.

#### Nun's the word on health care reform

Last week, the Associated Press sent out a brief article proclaiming that the nation's Catholic nuns announced their support of the recently passed health care bill in...  
—Evan Gassman

#### Even liberals unhappy with ObamaCare

John McCormack writes that Rep. Bart Stupak's inexplicable and unprincipled late cave-in on taxpayer-funded abortion -- so senseless and bizarre after he held out so nobly for...  
—Jeffrey H. Anderson

#### Obama 'unravels' our employer-based health-care system -- Good for him

Do you remember Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential debates, savaging John McCain's health-care proposal? This was Obama's critique: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which...  
—Timothy P. Carney

#### Crist polls last place in a three-way Florida Senate race

Rasmussen measures Democrat Rep. Kendrick Meek against Republicans Marco Rubio and Gov. Charlie Crist in a three-way race for the Senate seat vacated by Mel Martinez, R. The...  
—David Freddoso





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**b b** 5 hours ago

1 person liked this.

I used to think Obama was just a liar, now I believe he truly has a mental problem! Or he thinks citizens are so stupid they don't see what's going on!!

He says one thing one day, says the complete opposite the next!

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**SteveM** 4 hours ago

Big Pharma should think twice about what they ask for. This government health care Leviathan may increase profits near term. But when the health care cost spiral goes really ballistic, Big Gov and Big

**Mark Hemingway**  
Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., opposing reconciliation bill

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Insurance will step on providers' necks demanding cram down generics be scripted to their patients. Pharma's days of me-too cash cow drugs will be over.

BTW, ironically, generic cram downs replacing little value added, me-too, brand label drugs is not necessarily a bad thing.

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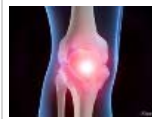
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