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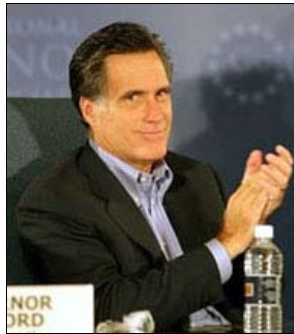
Conservative think tank: Romney health law 'identical' to Obama plan

By Sahil Kapur
Friday, April 16th, 2010 – 11:57 am

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Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney is taking fire from the prominent conservative think tank Cato Institute for criticizing President Barack Obama's health care plan despite having enacted an "essentially identical" bill as governor of Massachusetts in 2006.



"As President Obama himself has pointed out, Romney is the guy who created the prototype for ObamaCare," said Cato's executive vice president David Boaz, in a new video posted at the institute's [Web site](#). "How can he lead the charge against a health care plan that is modeled on his own?"

With opposition to health reform a key rallying point for the GOP, Romney's landmark accomplishment as governor of Massachusetts has turned into a potentially fatal threat to this 2012 presidential ambitions.

"When you run down this list of elements in the Obama plan and the Romney plan, they are all identical," said Michael Cannon, Cato's director of Health Policy Studies.

Both plans comprise a series of insurance regulations, subsidies and mandates to extend coverage to the uninsured. Both create insurance exchanges that allow individuals and small businesses to pool risk, and neither includes a government-run option.

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The *Wall Street Journal's* conservative editorial board called the Obama and Romney measures "fraternal policy twins", noting that the former governor "signed a prototype of ObamaCare into law in

Massachusetts."

The media has taken note, too.

The Associated Press recently ran a story last week headlined, "Romney attacks health care law similar to his own." The Christian Science Monitor wondered, "Who is the father of health care reform: Obama or Mitt Romney?"

Romney is widely considered the leading contender for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012. He won the Southern Republican Leadership Conference straw poll last weekend and came in second behind long-shot candidate Ron Paul at CPAC in February.

This story was first reported by Reid Wilson of the *National Journal*.

The video is from the Cato Institute.

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RichardCrow 2 days ago

3 people liked this.

There goes that darn liberal media again.

How dare they keep bringing up facts. It's a personal attack against the talking points I tell ya!

Ignore the facts! It's the talking points that are important,

Flag



an84u 3 days ago

2 people liked this.

I think little Romney's just a super-rich, bloated RePUKEliCANT shithead...I've noticed he's glib, small-minded and primarily worthless as a public leader. Best case in point: This consummate jerk's inability to see his Massachusetts Health Care Reform plan became a standard by which a national plan was developed. I think he needs to STFU, period!

Flag



overdoneputaforkinit 2 days ago

1 person liked this.

Of course the bills are the same. The insurance companies always write these bills.

Flag



facebook-521034907 2 days ago

1 person liked this.

Ohhhh my god this plan is SOCIALIST Holy SH*T this was pretty much Romney's plan and the people who are against this Health Care bill aka Republicans and stupid tea party people are the one voting for Republicans and or just racist and hate Obama then asks your selves WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING FOR OUR GOD DAMN COUNTRY? ehh thats a tough question now isn't. You should all just be like Rush Limbaugh and move out of the Country.

Flag



Kurt_O 3 days ago

1 person liked this.

Why did RS make the "Porter Goss Agreed to Destroying Waterboarding Tapes" disappear so fast? Looked like a pretty good discussion getting started in the comments section:

<http://rawstory.com/rs/2010/0416/email-excia-di...>

Flag



scottyp 3 days ago

It is the same. Romney is pulling everyone's leg, thinking he can trick people with his slick (well, not really slick) used car salesman lingo.

an84u- you nailed Romney, to a tee! That is what he is!!

<http://mittromney2012potus.blogspot.com/>

Flag



NadePaulKuciGravMcKi 3 days ago

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mittens
for sale
or rent

Flag



A. Burns. 3 days ago

The problem with Obamacare is that it has been applied to the entire country. At the federal level, there should have been incentives for states to create plans that work for each state. Instead, Obama copied Romney's plan and made it a federal plan. The consequences are much different. Obama is steering a much larger ship, and what is good for one state does not necessarily work for the rest of the country.

Another thing: Romney felt that states should institute their own plans so each state could learn from the other. In other words, he hoped that other states would improve upon his plan, honing it into other working models. This would allow Mass to change to one of the better models later. This is what he meant by using the states as laboratories for democracy. By copying the Mass plan, Obama has ruined any opportunity to create plans that work more efficiently, offer more coverage, etc. Now we are just stuck - as a country.

Romney is a trailblazer - we need people like him. Obama just copied Romney, thinking that anything working okay on a small scale should be expanded to the federal government. What a disaster.

Flag



frantaylor 2 days ago [in reply to A. Burns.](#)

1 person liked this.

50 bureaucracies instead of one?

Obama is not "steering" a ship. Plans like this are run by actuarial wonks who crunch the numbers. The parameters are all laid out in the law.

"Ruined any opportunity to create plans that work more effectively"

You know they moaned about this when Medicare was introduced. What happened is that after a couple of years it became obvious to everyone how to fix its problems, so they fixed them.

It's not like this health care bill is cast in stone. They can revisit it in the future and tweak on it as needed. Really it's how all big projects are done. You can't expect perfection from day one.

Flag



vincentfrey 2 days ago [in reply to A. Burns.](#)

YOU can't see that Romney's healthcare is the same as Obama's???? are you stupid??

Flag



Tammy 2 days ago [in reply to vincentfrey](#)

Nope - not the same. Romney has always maintained that it should be left up to the states to determine what the best course for that state would be. There were no additional taxes instituted in Massachusetts but there are in Obamacare. Obamacare is 2000+ pages and Masscare was 70. Massachusetts plan is BIPARTISAN, Obamacare is NOT. Romney worked with the Heritage Foundation - Obama worked with no one. It would be beneficial to check the facts before attempting to calling others stupid.

Flag



kwertie 2 days ago

That's another reason not to like it. However, I will accept it temporarily, just to make scumpublicans' heads explode.

Flag



Klar 2 days ago

Please Raw Story , get that warmongering bomb Iran propoganda off your page, it makes you look as dopey as Romney

Flag

svbunderson 2 days ago

Obamacare and Mitt Romney's Healthcare plan in Massachussets are of course NOT the same. To say that they are identical is a lie. There are of course similarities but there are also glaring differences. Isn't it a bit dishonest to point out only the similarities and completely ignore or gloss over the differences? To say that Mass care was the template for Obamacare is also grossly dishonest. It needs to be said too that the the healthcare plan you see in Massachussets is not the plan that Romney introduced. The Democrats left a huge footprint on it.

Flag

mike 2 days ago

I wouldnt trust him to take out the trash. Just another slimy politician. He was the worst thing to happen to this state in the last thirty years. If he becomes president, we are all screwed.

Flag

C.P.T.L. 2 days ago

Anyone who paid attention to Romney in his campaign for the presidency knows he is a proven liar and a slippery fish when it comes to his characterizations.

The man is lying again: surprise, surprise.

This story says more about Obama and his Democrat's Health Care Plan (not Reform) than it does about Romney.

No one voted for Obama expecting he'd give them Romney's Health Care Plan.

Flag

cotreq 2 days ago

The Massachusetts plan is similar to Obamacare however the fundamental difference is that Mass pays its own way. They voted for their own healthcare plan.They make the rules then pay their own bills, Obamacare mandates from Washington then forces states to pay for it. When all you are focused on is spewing obscenities and personal attacks you miss the basic understanding of the problem. Romney isn'y my choice for 2012 but as a excellent businessman he understands you can'y borrow and tax forever - when he makes a decision he pays for it, not mandate your own idea and force someone else to pay for it.

Flag

edbert1966 1 day ago

The problem with all of this (be it DEM or REPUB) is that eventually some one has to pay the bill. The insurence companies in Mass, are already cutting out. soon you won't be able to buy insurence in Mass,. These regulations have made it unsustainable, and as much as i hate the big corporate conglomerates. You do have to make money to stay in business.

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REALITYZONE 1 day ago

Obama is a Republicrat.

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