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## Health Care Arena

An ongoing discussion on the health care debate

Feb. 22, 2010

### Driving the Conversation:

Arena Ref: [Fred Barbash](#)

## The President's Health Care Plan

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### David Boaz

Executive VP, Cato Institute :

As Al Smith said of Franklin Roosevelt, "Nobody shoots at Santa Claus."

A lot of Americans will be delighted if the president promises them something for nothing, like health insurance that covers more costs every year and doesn't raise premiums to reflect that. But perhaps a growing number of voters are coming to recognize that indeed you can't get something for nothing. Voters have been increasing skeptical over the past year that a government program could provide more health care to more people at a lower cost.

President Obama has talked a lot about the rising cost of health care. If the care costs more, then comprehensive health insurance will cost more, especially when state and federal governments continue to mandate more benefits (mental health parity, covering children up to age 27, in vitro fertilization, autism services, cervical cancer immunizations, etc.). President Obama is betting that a majority of voters can see only the immediate benefit and not the long-term costs.

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