

CITY COLLEGE Times



The Student Voice of San José City College

April 22nd, 2010

[Home](#)

[News](#)

[A & E](#)

[Campus](#)

[Sports](#)

[Op Ed](#)

[UnIncorporated](#)

[Online Exclusives](#)

[Back Issues](#)

[Staff](#)

Health care matters to students

Premiums will double, quality diminish, you'll be saddled with debt

April 21, 2010

by CHARLES BECKER TIMES STAFF

Health care reform has everyone from deficit hawks to the average Joe debating pros and cons. The bottom line is simple after stripping away gimmicks, such as the naive "hope for change." The landmark bill will crush the next generation of taxpayers with debt.

The president's assumptions of health care reform's benefits are a hasty conclusion.

Mr. Obama claims it will make insurance more affordable, set up a competitive health insurance market, reduce the federal deficit and end discrimination against Americans with pre-existing conditions, according to the White House Web site.

That is a lot to promise, but how can the public trust what he says with his record as a "flip-flop" on important issues for young voters, which includes reissuing the Patriot Act, preserving Guantanamo Bay and committing 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan.

Next on the list of broken promises was reducing the cost on prescription medication. Now we are hoping that the pharmaceutical industry will lower costs on good faith, as Mr. Obama hands it 32 million customers.

Unfortunately, increased demand in the case of health care does not mean lower prices for the rest of us. There should have been a clause that insures benefits to the pharmaceutical industry would be distributed in the form of lower cost to consumers. If everyone were forced to buy Coca Cola products, would the industry lower prices by choice?

The private health insurance market is a joke. The original plan, the so-called public option, which expected to lower prices by forcing private insurance companies to compete across states boundaries with government-run health insurance agencies, is not on the bill.

Competition with the private health insurance market might actually raise insurance prices because for-profits are now obliged to accept patients regardless of pre-existing conditions from a risk pool. The legislation was barely passed with a Democrat majority because of this concern, among others.

"Compulsory health insurance could require nearly 100 million Americans to switch to a more expensive health plan," said Michael F. Cannon, coauthor of "Healthy Competition: What's Holding Back Health Care and How to Free It" on the Cato Institute's Web site, where he is director of health policy.

But, the proposed risk pool does not work both ways. It will adversely affect young people because price controls will be imposed on health insurance for low-risk groups, as part of the bill. President Obama betrayed his younger constituents with a bill that unfairly penalizes them for healthy lifestyles.

"Many young people could see their premiums double, whereas premiums for older adults could be cut in half," according to the Urban Institute, a nonpartisan economic and social policy research institution.

Underserved Americans do not gain anything from this bill, except coverage under their parent's plan until they are 26 and a no-discrimination policy for pre-existing conditions. Quality of health care will suffer, as the industry struggles to service 32 million more patients. Illegal immigrants will not be covered at all.

Community health professionals at San Jose City College agree.



Now you can share your favorite articles with a friend

Just click the [Send to Friend](#) link in the article preview



Missed an issue of The Times?

Find previous editions in our [Back Issues](#) section

“I lived in Britain when it nationalized health care,” said Janet Reid, a clinic nurse at SJCC’s health center for nine years who has also worked with the American Cancer Society. “A hip replacement under the government health plan had a wait-list up to three years, and many surgeries were sent to other countries because there were too many patients for hospitals to cope with.”

Democrats are not unified on this bill because it will not benefit Americans.

“If you have a low income, under HR3200 government will subsidize the private insurance companies, and you will still have to pay premiums, co-pays and deductibles,” said Democratic Sen. Dennis Kucinich on <http://kucinich.us>. “The Administration plan requires that everyone must have health insurance, so it is delivering tens of millions of new customers to the insurance companies. Health care? Not really.”

The youth will fork up the bill in the future.

Similar to Social Security, young adults will pay for the distribution of wealth but will likely not enjoy the fund before it begins running out in 2017, according to the 2009 Annual Report from the Social Security and Medicare Board of Trustees.

“The health care bill has no reforms that would enable the program to operate more cheaply in the future,” said Doug Holtz-Eakin, former director of the Congressional Budget Office on his column for the New York Times.

“Our kids will be paying for this bill for us,” Reid said.

Wake up, America. Politicians are the worst people to trust on cost control.

When Medicaid was created in 1965, it was supposed to be a small program, with a budget of \$1 billion per year. It now burdens taxpayers with \$280 billion per annum, according to records from the Cato Institute.

The country cannot afford an overhaul of the health system — period.

Household debt is quickly creeping on GDP at \$12.7 trillion compared to \$14.2 trillion, according to Treasury Department’s Web site.

Democrats have bet the nation’s future on a partisan bill, which hopes the devil we don’t know is better than the devil we know. Say goodbye to American capitalism and hello to a future saddled with debt. At least it’s not socialism.