



Someday...



Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Search TheHill.com GO»

Advanced Search Options »

Home/News News by Subject Blogs Business & Lobbying Opinion Capital Living Jobs Special Reports Resources Contact

Congress Blog Pundits Blog Blog Briefing Room Twitter Room

Enter Email GO

- Home
- Senate
- House
- Administration
- Campaign
- Business & Lobbying
- BLOGS
- Congress Blog
- Pundits Blog
- Blog Briefing Room
- Twitter Room
- BUSINESS & LOBBYING

THE HILL'S Congress Blog

Where lawmakers come to blog

The Big Question, Sept. 29: Is the GOP pushback on Medicare cuts good policy or clever politics?

By Tony Romm - 09/29/09 06:04 PM ET

- COMMENT
- EMAIL
- PRINT
- SHARE

Michael Cannon, the director of Health Policy Studies at the [Cato Institute](#), said:

Republicans are demagoguing Democrats' efforts to restrain Medicare spending, and their demagoguery will come back to haunt them. Of course, depending on the year, one could switch the words "Republican" and "Democrat," and the previous sentence would be equally true. Today's Republican demagoguery is just desserts for how President Obama demagogued John McCain's proposed/assumed reductions in Medicare spending. Yet Republicans should be waging a more principled attack.

[GO TO THE HILL HOME »](#)

Learn more about how we're innovating healthcare...

GO >

Sponsors of Tomorrow:

MOST POPULAR STORIES

Most Viewed	Emailed	Discussed	
-------------	---------	-----------	--

[Optional health deal](#)
[Harkin says he has the votes to pass public option bill in the Senate](#)

K Street Insiders

NEWS BY SUBJECT

[Defense & Homeland Security](#)

[Energy & Environment](#)

[Technology](#)

[All News by Subject](#)

OPINION

[A.B. Stoddard](#)

[Brent Budowsky](#)

[Lanny Davis](#)

[John Del Cecato](#)

[Ben Goddard](#)

[David Hill](#)

[Cheri Jacobus](#)

[David Keene](#)

[Mark Mellman](#)

[Dick Morris](#)

[Markos Moulitsas \(Kos\)](#)

[Editorials](#)

[Letters](#)

[Op-Eds](#)

CAPITAL LIVING

[Gossip: In the Know](#)

[Cover Stories](#)

[Food & Drink](#)

[Announcements](#)

[All Capital Living](#)

VIDEO

“Yes, we must restrain Medicare spending. But Congress should use the savings to reduce the deficit, not to give private insurance companies an \$800 billion bailout. Rather than restrain spending through the Democrats’ preferred tools of price controls, exchange controls, and bureaucratic rationing – which can reduce spending but increase costs – Congress should give each senior a fixed voucher and the freedom to choose a health plan that provides the coverage and medical care that they want. Medicare vouchers are the only way to protect seniors from government rationing.”

Tom McClusky, senior vice president for [FRC Action](#), said:

"Clever politics" strikes me as a very good oxymoron. There is a big difference to when the Republicans suggested reduced future spending on Medicare and to what the Democrats are suggesting now, actual cuts to existing programs under Medicare. The director of the non-partisan, independent Congressional Budget Office himself has said that the administration's proposed Medicare cuts would indeed lead to significant cuts in benefits to seniors.

The Medicare program the Democrats are seeking to eliminate is the most free market aspect of the plan, Medicare Advantage. And while Medicare Advantage could use some revamping, by eliminating it you are affecting greatly the 10 million seniors who enjoy its benefits. The Democrats can expect senior revolts similar to what disgraced Chairman of the House Ways and means, Dan Rosentowski faced in the late 1980’s when he led eliminations to their services. This does not mean Medicare isn’t in desperate need of revamping, but to make the cuts that the Democrats are suggesting to help pay for the monstrosity that is the current health care bills in Congress is the Democrats putting their liberal agenda ahead of the constituents they serve, and the senior citizens that raised us."

Dean Baker, co-director of the [Center for Economic and Policy Research](#), said:

It's obviously politics (when have the Republicans been committed to Medicare?), it remains to be seen whether or not it is clever.

[Google online library battle hits House](#)

[GOP extends its target list for Nov. 2010](#)

[Obama sets stage for using budget maneuver to pass health reform](#)

[Home/News »](#)

[RSS Most Viewed RSS Feed »](#)

MORE HEALTHCARE HEADLINES

- [On healthcare \(Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison\)](#)
- [Seniors Have a Right to Know \(Rep. Dave Camp\)](#)
- [We need common sense reforms that will lower healthcare costs \(Rep. Dan Lipinski\)](#)

[More Healthcare Headlines »](#)

[RSS Healthcare News RSS feed »](#)

CONGRESS BLOG TOPICS

[Campaign »](#)

[Civil Rights »](#)

[Economy & Budget »](#)

[Education »](#)

[Energy & Environment »](#)

[Foreign Policy »](#)

[Healthcare »](#)

[Homeland Security »](#)

[Judicial »](#)

[Labor »](#)

[Lawmaker News »](#)

[Politics »](#)

[Presidential Campaign »](#)

[Religious Rights »](#)

[Technology »](#)

[The Administration »](#)



BRIEFING ROOM

- [Kerry postpones effort to trim health insurance tax](#)
- [Nike resigns from Chamber's board, citing climate differences](#)
- [GOP holds early edge in Pennsylvania governor's race](#)

[More Briefing Room »](#)

[HillTube](#)

RESOURCES

[Mobile Site](#)

[White Papers](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Order Reprints](#)

[Last 6 Issues](#)

[Outside Links](#)

CONTACT US

[Advertise](#)

[Reach Us](#)

[Submitting Letters](#)



Try this for a big question: America's biggest enemy is the united states government. We need to purge every democrat and republican currently sitting in office and reset pay to pre 1950's level for all government workers. Government jobs should be short time not life time, all government jobs.

BY **T1M3K1LL3R** on 09/29/2009 at 19:50

Both parties have failed Bush, Obama, Clinton, ect. What we have here are lawyers that argue there case every 2 to 4 years not really talking to the American people just spitting out whatever they need to say or not say to get the elected. There is a distinct failure to communicate with our elected officials not because we are not talking loud enough rather they are not listening. Hear no evil speak no evil and see no evil are the watch words in Washington these days everything is a conspiracy to them and that alone should be a ringing alarm to the American people. This is indeed the end of days but not in the biblical sense this is the end of days for the United States of America. Unless we get our sh*t together and take back our country we deserve to lose it.

BY **LEGION** on 09/29/2009 at 20:58

The only alternative I guess is to have the Moms and Dads who are on Medicare, and are the parents of congressional representatives come up to the podium and speak. Wonder how much their "kids" have not told them the truth either.

BY **JD PLUS** on 09/29/2009 at 23:03

Medicare would do well to act MORE like private insurance. Even the CBO says Medicare simply processes any claim as it comes in with little or not review which is one reason its admin costs are low, that and the large amount of fraud that goes undetected because of too little attention to it and too little administrative costs to support more effort. Medicare cuts are nothing but governernt wrangling under the guise of managing costs. Cut payment to providers and gut the Medicare Advantage plans and you succeed in raising out of pocket costs to beneficiaries and shifting costs to the private sector. My observations on health care and health care reform based on 48 years in the field can be found at: <http://www.quinnscommentary.com>

BY **DICK QUINN** on 09/30/2009 at 09:26

Add Comment

Name (required)

CONGRESS BLOG

- [Iran: Denying the undeniable](#)
- [The Big Question, Sept. 29: Is the GOP pushback on Medicare cuts good policy or clever politics?](#)
- [Fighting chronic hunger-The time is now for global food security](#)

[More Congress Blog »](#)

PUNDITS BLOG

- [Does Obama have a secret deal with insurance companies?](#)
- [Ray LaHood](#)
- [Going rogue with Sarah Palin](#)

[More Pundits Blog »](#)

TWITTER ROOM

- [Congressman: Pelosi should go after Grayson for remark](#)
- [Pentagon official: No decision yet on military social media access](#)
- [Specter tweets disappointment over public option defeat](#)

[More Twitter Room »](#)

[Blogs News Feed](#)

CONGRESS BLOG ROLL

Capital Games	NRSC
Daily Kos	Political Animal
DCCC	RNC
DNC	The ChamberPost
Drudge Report	The Corner
DSCC	The Huffington Post
Judicial Watch	The Note
NRCC	The Plank

E-Mail (will not be published) (required)

Your Comments

Submit Comment **Clear**

The Hill Archives: [Senate](#) | [House](#) | [Administration](#) | [Campaign](#) | [Business & Lobbying](#) | [Capital Living](#) | [Opinion](#)

View News by Subject:

[Defense & Homeland Security](#) | [Energy & Environment](#) | [Healthcare](#) | [Finance & Economy](#) | [Technology](#) | [Foreign Policy](#) | [Labor](#) | [Transportation & Infrastructure](#)



COLUMNISTS

Dick Morris



Surrendering
sovereignty

Markos Moulitsas



All politics not
local

Brent Budowsky



Optional health
deal

David Keene



New York
disgrace

More Columnists »



Get latest news from The Hill
direct to your inbox, RSS reader
and mobile devices.

Enter Email Address

SIGN UP »

[Home/News](#) [News by Subject](#) [Blogs](#) [Business & Lobbying](#) [Opinion](#) [Capital Living](#) [Jobs](#) [Special Reports](#) [Resources](#) [Contact](#)



[Home](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Contact](#) | [Advertise](#) | [RSS](#)

The Hill 1625 K Street, NW Suite 900 Washington DC 20006 | 202-628-8500 tel | 202-628-8503 fax

The contents of this site are © 2009 Capitol Hill Publishing Corp., a subsidiary of News Communications, Inc.