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Costing the health care bills

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Michael Cannon at [Cato](#) draws my attention to [these posts](#) by Donald Marron, a former CBO director, on the confusion surrounding recent estimates of the cost of the health reform bills. (A good place to start in fact is this [earlier post](#) by Marron, which sets out the various definitions of “cost”.) The president has promised that reform will not cost more than \$1 trillion over ten years. The new House bill, on the definition used up to now, breaches that limit: therefore, its proponents adopted a different definition and at least to begin with almost everybody bought it. See also [this piece](#) from the NYT's health policy blog.

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