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## THE HILL'S Congress Blog

Where lawmakers come to blog

### History had the wrong number

By Cato Institute Senior Fellow Michael D. Tanner - 10/14/09 09:49 AM ET

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"When history calls, history calls," Sen. Olympia Snowe said in explaining her "yes" vote on the Finance Committee's health care reform legislation Tuesday.

Snowe is apparently under the impression that "history" was calling for economy-crippling taxes, more debt for our children, and higher insurance premiums for middle class Americans.

The bill crafted by Chairman Max Baucus is nothing but a tax-and-spend bonanza that achieves less than half of what it claims at more than twice the cost. The real price tag, cleverly obscured by budgetary gimmicks that delay some of the real cost and push much of the rest onto the private sector, is well over \$2 trillion. The bill's mandates upon insurers will almost certainly fall on the shoulders of middle-class families in the form of sharply higher premiums. After all that, the bill will still leave 25 million Americans uninsured, and many of the rest with lower-quality plans for which they will be paying more.

Worse, the bill will only become more expensive and more bureaucratic as it is merged with the Senate HELP Committee bill and whatever bill ultimately passes the House.

Sen. Snowe seems to believe that because this bill wasn't as bad as it could have been, that was good enough. That's what passes for "moderation" these days.

When history called Sen. Snowe, it apparently had a wrong number.

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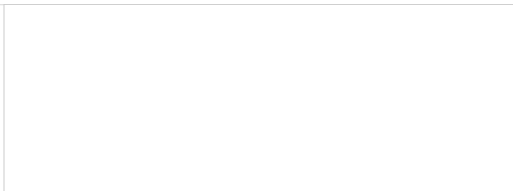
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