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Unanswerable Questions

Kate Steadman, KHN

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Many blog eyes are focused on where the action is – the Senate.

The Washington Post's [Ezra Klein](#) gives a preview of "worth-taking-seriously" bipartisan amendments to be offered today by Republican Susan Collins and Democrat Ron V. Klein says the proposed changes are substantive, adding, "If the Senate would turn the bulk of its attention to debating what types of plans should be in the exchanges and they should be chosen, the debate would be somewhat less interesting, but the eventual bill might be a lot better. Collins and Wyden are taking a stab at doing that, and they deserve plaudits for it."

Those amendments are sure to add more pages to the bill. The 2,000+ page length has been a big complaint from right-leaning commentators since the start. But [Capital C and Games'](#) Stan Collender says the length isn't because of the bill itself — it's the way law is written, which is far from conversational:

If you're having trouble getting your mind around this concept, think of it as the difference between the formal way you were taught to speak in school when you were learning foreign language and how you're more likely to say the same thing now. In other words, instead of saying:

"Good morning. I hope you slept well. What are your plans for the rest of the day?"

You probably say something like:

"What's up?"

In other words, unless you want to speak like your first Spanish or French teacher, you absolutely need to resist the urge to criticize health care reform because of the number of pages in the draft legislation.

[James Capretta](#) disagrees and says health bills are so long "because the authors start from the premise that the federal government has the capacity to centrally plan one-sides of the American economy from Washington, D.C. That's the main reason the bill contains scores of new agencies, mountains of regulations, and pages and pages of taxes, mandates, and fees."

Elsewhere, [Worker's Comp Insider](#) hosts Health Wonk Review, your biweekly compendium of health policy blogging.

Dana Goldman on the New York Times' [Economix](#) says "Everyone from Michael Moore to Sarah Palin agrees that limiting access to any beneficial care, no matter how costly and ineffective, is unequivocally immoral." He adds, "In the absence of such fundamental reforms, there are worthwhile (albeit smaller) steps we can take to encourage greater consciousness of health care costs. And these steps do not require government panels making health care decisions," and then offers fixes — including fast-tracking some approvals, legal reform and removing the tax exclusion for health insurance. Goldman offers fixes to get around the idea of "death panels" — fast-tracking some FDA approval of legal reform and removing the tax exclusion for health insurance.

And [Cato's](#) Tad DeHaven looks at more [reports](#) of Medicare fraud in Miami-Dade county and notes that "the defrauding isn't sophisticated – it's just good ole fashioned bribery. Apparently the defrauders bribed doctors and others with cash to write false prescriptions and referrals.

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