

# Patient Power

Because your health care is too important to be left to politicians.

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## Health “reform” vs. medical technology & innovation

November 27th, 2009 | by Brian Schwartz |

From a new Cato Institute policy analysis, [Bending the Productivity Curve: Why America Leads the World in Medical Innovation](#):

The health care issues commonly considered most important today — controlling costs and covering the uninsured — arguably should be regarded as secondary to innovation, inasmuch as a medical treatment must first be invented before its costs can be reduced and its use extended to everyone. ...

In three of the four general categories of innovation examined in this paper — basic science, diagnostics, and therapeutics — the United States has contributed more than any other country, and in some cases, more than all other countries combined. ...

... When the United States subsidizes medical innovation, the whole world benefits. That is a virtue of the American system that is not reflected in comparative life expectancy and mortality statistics.

... Expanding price controls, government health care programs, and health insurance regulation, on the other hand, could hinder America’s ability to innovate.

Reason.tv has a [video on medical innovation](#) and why profits are good:

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