

Dear Washington,
Are you listening?

We have something to say!
NoBeverageandFoodTaxes.com



CHECK OUT THE NEW
COPENHAGEN ARENA

An ongoing discussion on the U.N. Climate Change conference.

Dec. 15, 2009

Driving the Conversation:

Arena Ref: [Fred Barbash](#)

1) Obama rates himself a "solid B+." Too high? Too low? About right?

2) Health Care: Is it, as Dan Pfeiffer says, "hard to imagine another president" taking on health care if it doesn't pass now?

Peter Beinart: New America Foundation livechat at noon. Join us

Share this



Print

Email



Michael F. Cannon
Cato, Dir. of Health Policy Studies :

Curtain Call for the "Public Option" Sideshow

Senate Democrats now appear to be jettisoning the idea of creating **a new government program** to snuff-out compete with private insurance companies. It was an audacious proposal from the start, as it made their health care plan even more left-wing than the Clinton plan, which voters soundly rejected for being too statist.

It was also and always a sideshow that helpfully distracted the Left, the Right, and the mainstream from what shrewd Democrats and **their allies at AHIP** have really wanted all along: an individual mandate forcing all Americans to purchase health insurance under penalty of law.

As I argue in **this Cato study**, an individual mandate gives government more (and more immediate) control over Americans' health care than even the so-called "public option" would. As it has in Massachusetts, an individual mandate will allow government to control what kind of insurance you buy, how much you pay, how insurers pay doctors, where doctors report to work, how doctors practice medicine, and what kind of medical care you get.

The question now is whether the Left, the Right, and the mainstream will recognize the Senate health care bill for what it is: a massive \$450 billion bailout for private insurance companies that will drive health insurance premiums and taxes higher while reducing quality, all for the benefit of a small cadre of Democrats with **a preternatural need** to control other people's health care.

(Cross-posted at **Cato@Liberty**.)

Subject	Date
1) At this point, do you think the Senate will pass health care in 2009? What if it doesn't? (Bonus high school civics question from my teenaged son: Why does Congress turn chicken in election years anyway?) 2) What does Obama accomplish by calling bankers "fat cats?"	Dec. 14, 2009
Obama's sinking job approval: "So?" (h/t Dick Cheney) Plus, Palin and the Post on climate science	Dec. 09, 2009
Public option compromise: Does it achieve anything? Bonus question: Harry Reid's mouth: Does it achieve anything?	Dec. 08, 2009