

# [SmallGovTimes.com](http://SmallGovTimes.com)

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Search:

GO

- [Home](#)
- [About the Times](#)
  - [Our Platform](#)
  - [Our new design](#)
  - [Our Authors](#)
  - [What makes us different?](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Poll Archives](#)
- [Write for Us](#)
- [Forum](#)

 [Subscribe](#)

- [Libertarian News](#)
- [Military News](#)
- [News Bites](#)
- [Voices and Choices](#)
- [World News](#)

Browse > [Home](#) / [Voices and Choices](#) / Yes, Mr. President: A free market can fix health care

## Yes, Mr. President: A free market can fix health care

October 26, 2009 by [Michael Cannon](#)

 Share / Save

**In March 2009, President Barack Obama said, “If there is a way of getting this done where we’re driving down costs and people are getting health insurance at an affordable rate, and have choice of doctor, have flexibility in terms of their plans, and we could do that entirely through the market, I’d be happy to do it that way.” This paper explains how letting workers control their health care dollars and tearing down regulatory barriers to competition would control costs, expand choice, improve health care quality, and make health coverage more secure.**

First, Congress should give Medicare enrollees a voucher and the freedom to choose any health plan on the market. Vouchers would be means-tested, would contain Medicare spending, and are the only way to protect seniors from government rationing.

Second, to give workers control over their health care dollars, Congress should reform the tax treatment of health care with “large” health savings accounts. Large HSAs would reduce the number of uninsured

Americans, would free workers to purchase secure health coverage from any source, and would effectively give workers a \$9.7 trillion tax cut without increasing the federal budget deficit.

Michael F. Cannon is director of health policy studies at the Cato Institute and coauthor of *Healthy Competition: What's Holding Back Health Care and How to Free It*.

More by Michael F. Cannon

Third, Congress should break up state monopolies on insurance and clinician licensing. Allowing consumers to purchase health insurance licensed by other states could cover one-third of the uninsured without any new taxes or government subsidies.

Finally, Congress should reform Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program the way it reformed welfare in 1996. Block-granting those programs would reduce the deficit and encourage states to target resources to the truly needy.

The great advantage of a free market is that innovation and more prudent decisionmaking means that fewer patients will fall through the cracks.

[View the analysis in HTML format](#)

 [Join the forum discussion on this post](#) - (1) Posts

## Other articles that you may enjoy

- July 18, 2009 -- [Captured American soldier shown on Taliban video \(0\)](#)
- August 23, 2008 -- [United States continue funneling taxpayer dollars to Georgia \(0\)](#)
- January 9, 2009 -- [Barr slams Illinois House impeachment resolution \(1\)](#)
- March 8, 2009 -- [Obama ponders outreach to Taliban moderates \(0\)](#)
- August 10, 2009 -- [Afghan war might last decades, more costly than Iraq \(1\)](#)

Filed Under: [Voices and Choices](#)

## About The Author

Michael F. Cannon is director of health policy studies at the Cato Institute and coauthor of *Healthy Competition: What's Holding Back Health Care and How to Free It*.

-- Other posts by [Michael Cannon](#)

## Comments

Feel free to leave a comment...

and oh, if you want a pic to show with your comment, go get a [gravatar!](#)

Name (required)

Email Address (required)

Website

Speak your mind

Submit Comment

Preview

Click the "Preview" button to preview your comment here.

## eNews & Updates

Sign up to receive breaking news  
as well as receive other site updates!

Enter your email address



## • Recent Articles

- [Kerry: Afghan surge proposal 'goes too far, too fast'](#)
- [Reid wants government option in health care](#)
- [Afghan president, main rival reject power sharing](#)
- [Yes, Mr. President: A free market can fix health care](#)
- [Audit the Fed: Full disclosure or nothing](#)
- [Economics and moral courage](#)
- [14 Americans killed in 2 Afghan helicopter crashes](#)

## • Categories

- [Libertarian News](#)
- [Military News](#)

- [News Bites](#)
- [Voices and Choices](#)
- [World News](#)

## • Archives

## • Calendar of Articles

October 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	
<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>	<a href="#">7</a>	<a href="#">8</a>	<a href="#">9</a>	10
11	<a href="#">12</a>	<a href="#">13</a>	<a href="#">14</a>	<a href="#">15</a>	<a href="#">16</a>	17
<a href="#">18</a>	<a href="#">19</a>	<a href="#">20</a>	<a href="#">21</a>	<a href="#">22</a>	<a href="#">23</a>	<a href="#">24</a>
25	<a href="#">26</a>	27	28	29	30	31
<a href="#">« Sep</a>						

Copyright © 2008 [SmallGovTimes.com](http://SmallGovTimes.com) ·

☺