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ObamaCare: Death Panels Are a Real Concern After All

by [Brian Garst](#)

It was an article of faith among Obamacare supporters that worry over so-called death panels was simply a cynical ploy by conservative leaders to scare the peasants. Blatant fearmongering, they claimed. Now it's looking more and more like a valid concern. Writing at the Daily Caller, Michael Tanner of the Cato Institute [highlights](#) quotes from Dr. Donald Berwick, President Obama's nominee to be director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which suggest that death panels might be on his wish-list.



"I am romantic about the National Health Service. I love it," he has said about the British health care system. His favorite part of British health care seems to be its rationing arm, the National Institute for Clinical Effectiveness (NICE). NICE is responsible for determining whether or not the life-extending benefits a patient receives are worth the cost to the government. Dr. Berwick calls this institution a "global treasure."

How much is a human life worth? About £30,000 per year, according to NICE. Anything more than \$44,000 per year of extended life, and NICE is likely to deny treatment. Important drugs that prolong the life of cancer patients, such as Lapatinib and Sutent, are not allowed. Alzheimer's drugs are also heavily restricted for those in the early stages of the disease despite the fact that the early stages are when treatment can provide the most

benefit. Originally pitched as nothing more than a board to promote "best practices," NICE has become a rationing, death panel machine.

Dr. Berwick thinks this system is so wonderful, we should implement it right here in America. "It's not a question of whether we will ration care," he explained in a magazine interview, "It is whether we will ration with our eyes open." His idea of rationing with eyes open is when "collective action overrid[es] individual self-interest." The individual he is referring to here, whose interests should not matter, is the patient. The collective action is the death panel.



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[HarryTuttle](#) 85p · 58 minutes ago +6

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I wonder how they will rate those in government; oh wait they have their own system out side of the death panels!

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[mikattollah](#) 117p · 53 minutes ago -16

Hey Garst, the death panel lie only works on dumbasses. Looks like you found the right venue... Job well done my friend.

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[MystWlker](#) 77p · 52 minutes ago +4

ummmmm.... we told you so.....?

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[AngelaRichter](#) 35p · 50 minutes ago +3

Hmm... seems to me that when Sarah Palin brought this up she was fear mongering. Since I predicted this would happen, I want to be set up as the Administration Miss Cleo.

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[ForConstitution](#) 92p · 43 minutes ago +6

Memo to Seniors:

Drop Dead.

The Federal Government.

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[jackw3526](#) 76p · 42 minutes ago +3

Maybe we can send the (unarmed) National Guard to our southern border and re-distribute important life-saving drugs to the crimaliens so they don't have to travel as far in their sickly condition

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[JoeDoakes101](#) 69p · 38 minutes ago +4

I would rather face my inevitable fate knowing that who ever was tasked with preserving my life had MY best interest at heart, whatever they may be, then the governments. Remember, ladies and gentleman, the government owes all of you a

great deal of money and is broke, in the business we call that a motive, and now it will create incentives to kill as many of you as possible, at the benevolent hand of your own doctor. How far we have fallen from a once moral and proud people. Prior generations were promised security we are promised death.

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 [DCinAZ](#) 18p · 37 minutes ago

+4

hey troll, for someone who obviously hates the right tou sure do like to hang out with us alot. don't have any friends? nobody else will play with you? that's too bad. gee, it must really suck to be you.

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 [StanH](#) 114p · 37 minutes ago

+3

Duuuuuh! Repeal and replace! ...we will remember come November!

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 [JoeDoakes101](#) 69p · 34 minutes ago

+4

All of you in AZ had better remember on primary day. Vote for Hayworth!!!

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 [Dave C 64](#) 80p · 34 minutes ago

+4

The Leftist masses out there will continue to deny such things will happen since all they can envision is a health care utopia through their rose colored glasses. Well, that is until they need medical treatment are told "sorry, it doesn't benefit society to keep you alive".

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 [wohlfguy](#) 75p · 30 minutes ago

+4

The ONLY way that universal health can work is if there is rationing of care. This fact is conveniently overlooked by the left. For you trolls out there answer the question on how our system will support 30 million new patients with no new doctors or hospitals without rationing...Still waiting for an intelligent response (or for Mickey, Randy, and Anon any response)

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[Obamacare: Death Panels After All « Stuck In The World, Making The Most Of It!](#)

[...] 28, 2010 at 08:50 (General Stupidity, Health, News) Not shocking. The way these fools get away with it is to make fun of the idea – 'Haha listen to the [...]

 [4arepublic](#) 93p · 26 minutes ago

+3

Excerpt from article in Washington Examiner today:

Since passage, reports have revealed that ObamaCare would cost over \$1 trillion by any standard, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), not "merely" \$940 billion as previously reported (while its total costs in its real first decade, 2014 to 2023, would continue to be well over \$2 trillion); that ObamaCare has prompted major corporations to discuss dropping their employer-provided health-care plans; that businesses would have to file 1099s not only for every person to whom they pay \$600 in wages but for every vendor with whom they do \$600 in business, thereby imposing a paperwork nightmare and incentivizing companies to avoid doing business with a myriad of small firms rather than a handful of big ones; that ObamaCare would create 159 new federal agencies, offices, or programs; that the Obama administration's Medicare Chief Actuary says ObamaCare would raise U.S. health costs by \$311 billion in relation to current law and would shift about 14 million people off of employer-provided insurance — and some of them onto Medicaid; that ObamaCare's would discourage employment, as — for example — hiring a 25th worker would cost a business \$5,600 in addition to wages and benefits; that ObamaCare would impose a severe marriage penalty, offering additional subsidies as high as \$10,425 a year if couples merely avoid marriage; that a lone provision in ObamaCare, which would penalize employers if their employees spend more than 9.5 percent of their household income on insurance premiums, would cut the net income of businesses like White Castle by more than half; that even though ObamaCare was supposed to get people out of emergency rooms and into doctors' offices, those who build emergency rooms say the effect will be just the opposite and that they are gearing up for increased business; that doctors shortages are looming and would be accentuated by ObamaCare, both because more people would seek care (otherwise, what would the \$2 trillion be buying?) and because fewer people would likely enter a demanding profession that would now promise greater restrictions and lower pay; and that President Obama's nominee to head Medicare and Medicaid under ObamaCare is an open advocate of the British National Health Services' NICE (National Institute of Clinical Excellence) and its methods of rationing care.

Read more at the Washington Examiner: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/blogs/b...>

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[ObamaCare: Death Panels Are a Real Concern After All « Citizen Gravity](#)

[...] Read Full Story >> BigGovernment [...]

 [i.hart](#) 80p · 17 minutes ago

+4

The cynicism of Obama, Pelosi, et al, who sneer at anyone daring to question their flagrant lies about Obamacare's cost, will come back to haunt them in November. I pray that early 2011 isn't too late to repair the damage the Democrats have done

with their stubborn embrace of unsustainable leftist nonsense... and hope they haven't twisted enough arms to ram through "comprehensive immigration reform" or Cap 'n Tax by then!

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[TexasJack2010](#) 2p · 9 minutes ago

+1

It is very simple, are you older, self-sufficient, conservative, Republican, against Oblama....you are not going to get any medical care from death panel

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[macnvettes](#) 93p · 8 minutes ago

+1

If anyone who has lived through the 80s and saw the images of what rationing is on tv (you know, Russians waiting in line for groceries), and they still want government controlling who gets what, then there is no help for them.

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[ObamaCare: Death Panels Are a Real Concern After All | U.S. Constitutional Free Press](#)

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by [Andrew Marcus](#)

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