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## [Opinion](#)

# Reformers exclude sensible measures

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By DERROY MURDOCK

The Senate Finance Committee rejected proposals to create a government-run health-insurance program. Five Democrats voted with Republicans. That makes a full-scale government takeover of medical care less likely. But advocates of limited government should remain vigilant.

For Finance Committee Democrats rejected numerous GOP amendments that would have given reform an injection of fiscal restraint and common sense. The rejected amendments give an ominous preview of how ObamaCare might look in practice, if enacted.

-- Rather than save taxpayers money by asking women to finance their abortions without federal dollars, an amendment to prevent ObamaCare's budget from funding elective abortions was rejected.

-- Arizona Republican John Kyl offered an amendment to assure that senior citizens not suffer healthcare rationing. On a party-line vote, Democrats crushed Kyl's suggestion.

-- Iowa Republican Charles Grassley's amendment offered great potential for reducing fraud and assuring that federal health dollars reach actual poor people, not those ineligible for assistance. Grassley proposed that individuals show government-issued photo identification when applying for Medicaid or the State Child Health Insurance Program. On a party line vote, Democrats killed Grassley's measure.

-- Kansas Republican Pat Roberts tried to secure flexibility and choice for Americans with Health Savings Accounts. The suggestion was ruled out of order by the panel chairman.

-- Democrats killed Kentucky Republican Jim Bunning's amendment to require that the Finance Committee's Web site post its ObamaCare bill along with its price tag for 72 hours before the committee's final vote.

"Every bill produced and every vote cast by Senate Democrats reveals that they want higher taxes, less choice, less competition, and government making your medical decisions," says Michael Cannon, the Cato Institute's Director of Health Policy Studies. "Nothing good can come of health reform in this Congress."

Democrats show zero interest in market-friendly, patient-centered ideas such as using refundable tax credits to make health insurance more affordable, in granting universal access to health-savings accounts, or in allowing Americans to buy health insurance across state lines — in interesting contrast to the way Democrats usually support the right of minors to cross state lines to receive abortions.

Most Democrats spurn these ideas as threats to a gargantuan, bureaucratic system that will devour tax dollars and deliver sub-par care.

— *Deroy Murdock is a columnist with Scripps Howard News Service and a media fellow with the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. E-mail: [deroy.murdock@gmail.com](mailto:deroy.murdock@gmail.com).*

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