



## Health policy expert: Pro-ObamaCare survey misleading

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According to Kaiser Family Foundation, seven percent of employers with more than 50 employees gave part-time workers full-time jobs since 2013 when ObamaCare was launched. This would seem to put a damper on concerns and claims that the Affordable Care Act will threaten jobs and hours. In fact, Yahoo Finance says the new data "contradicts the worst fears of ObamaCare critics."

But Michael Cannon, director of health policy at the Cato Institute, argues otherwise.

"Look, the folks who are saying ObamaCare is not killing jobs are basically arguing that water is running uphill – [and] that's not how it works," he tells OneNewsNow. "What Obama said to employers is, if you have over 50 employees then you have to provide your full-time employees with a minimum level of health insurance or else we're going to penalize you."

Cannon points out there are a number of ways that employers can avoid those penalties – and the one that ObamaCare supporters prefer is where employers provide their full-time workers with the minimum coverage.

"But there are other ways – and there is evidence that employers are choosing those other ways – of avoiding those penalties," he adds. "One of them is to stay below 50 employees [because] there is certainly a huge disincentive for employers to hire that 50th or that 51st employee if that's going to subject them to tens of thousands of dollars in penalties."

And another way, he explains, is to reduce the number of employees the business hires.

"Because then the fewer employees [you have], the smaller the penalties you're going to face; but also they can shift employees from full time to part time," Cannon continues. "Or, instead of hiring new full-time employees, [they] hire part-time employees who work under 30 hours a week – because then they're not going to be penalized for not providing those employees with health insurance ... and there is evidence that that is happening."

Bottom line? Cannon says supporters of ObamaCare are only looking at aggregate figures that show, in some cases, that hiring is on the rise and that hiring of full-time employees is growing.

"And you know what? That is wonderful, that is exactly what we want to see – [but] that doesn't mean that ObamaCare's critics are wrong," says Cannon. "We don't know where the seven percent who are expanding are on that size range, [and] we don't know who the two percent [are] that are shifting to part-time employees. So this survey doesn't tell us much."