

Amendment 3558 (Coburn) – To repeal the new authorities and powers given to the Secretary of Health and Human Services under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Almost [1,700](#) times in the Reid bill and in the new health bill (The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act), the Secretary of HHS is given new authorities to write regulations, issue definitions, and decide on the fate of Americans' health care. Congress should be empowering patients and physicians, not bureaucrats in Washington, DC. This amendment would simply ensure that the HHS Secretary – an unelected technocrat – would not be given any new authority.

The basic problem in our nation's health care system is not that Americans have too much control and federal bureaucrats have too little control.

In fact, that is precisely the opposite problem. The federal government already funds nearly two-thirds of health care in America, according to a [report](#) by the nonpartisan, independent Congressional Research Service.

The new health bill used the word "shall" over 3,000 times. That's 3,000 times that politicians in Washington are telling patients and physicians how to make health care decisions.

In the health care bill Congress just passed, it put took control and choice from Americans and gave it to federal bureaucrats in Washington, DC.

- The new health bill empowers the board of federal bureaucrats at the center [of the mammogram controversy](#), the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force.
- Even worse, the new health bill [creates three new boards](#) of federal bureaucrats who will make decisions about Americans health care based on costs and balance sheets – not based on what is best for patients.
- These federal bureaucrats come between patients and their physicians, leading to less choices and less control for patients.

With the passage of this health care bill, Congress has headed the wrong direction. This amendment ensures no additional control is taken from patients and given to the HHS Secretary.