

Amendment 3557: Bureaucrat Limitation – To ensure that no provisions in this act increase the size of government bureaucracies in Washington, D.C.

This amendment requires that for each government bureaucrat added to a government agency as a result of this act, there must be a corresponding decrease in a government bureaucrat at that agency.

The purpose of this amendment is to mitigate the massive growth in the size of the federal bureaucracy that would otherwise occur with the passage of this health care legislation.

This legislation will add over 25,000 new government bureaucrats.

The health care bill just signed into law is 2,700 pages, weighs close to 25 pounds, and significantly expands the size, scope, and authorities of faceless bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

There are 1,697 instances where the Secretary is given the authority to create, determine, or define things in the bill and at least 70 new programs created.

Already, the Department of Health and Human Services represents *a quarter of all federal outlays* and administers more grant dollars than all other federal agencies combined.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) already employs 101,054 bureaucrats. Most Americans are not clamoring for an increase in the agency's size or scope.

Few would argue that these and our federal bureaucracies are not already excessive, bloated, wasteful, and expensive. This amendment would simply ensure that our federal agencies do the hard work of eliminating waste as they are forced to greatly

expand to administer a massive new health care entitlement infrastructure.

On the other hand, voting against this amendment acknowledges and accepts that the provisions of this act will—and should—significantly expand the size and scope of the federal government.

This legislation creates 16,500 new IRS bureaucrats.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates huge new costs to the federal government to implement the provisions of this legislation that are not included in CBO's cost estimate of the bill.

In a letter to Sen. Reid, CBO estimated that it will cost the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as much as \$1 billion *per year* to enforce the mandate to buy insurance and dole out tax subsidies to purchase insurance. Over the course of their 10 year estimate, they estimate between \$5 billion and \$10 billion will be needed to implement these provisions.

An analysis by the Joint Economic Committee and the House Ways & Means Committee minority staff used these CBO estimates to determine how many new IRS personnel will be needed to collect, examine and audit new tax information mandated on families and small businesses. **They estimated this bill will create 16,500 new IRS bureaucrats.**¹

This estimate is based upon a myriad of new federal tax increase, requirements, and penalties associated with this bill. The total tax increases add up to over \$500 billion per year and Americans can look forward to more complicated tax returns. The IRS will require proof of government-approved health insurance and many

¹ http://republicans.waysandmeans.house.gov/UploadedFiles/IRS_Power_Report.pdf

businesses will have to show detailed compliance with new excise taxes. Many other employers will have to document proof of insurance coverage for their employees or fork over additional taxes under the “pay or play” employer mandate, which the CBO estimates will raise \$52 billion in new taxes.

This legislation creates at least 10,000 bureaucrats to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

A conservative estimate—based on the number of new programs, the increases in spending, and CBO’s assumptions regarding the costs of implementing the major reforms in this bill—is that this legislation will add at least 10,000 new bureaucrats to the Department of Health and Human Services.

HHS currently employs 67,403 “full-time equivalents,” more commonly known as government bureaucrats. Creating a massive new government-run health care infrastructure, administering 70 new programs, and carrying out 1,697 new requirements dictated by the Secretary will require a substantial increase in the number of employees at the agency.

CBO similarly estimates that it will cost between \$5 billion and \$10 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement the major provisions of this act under their jurisdiction. According to CBO, “Those costs would probably be at least \$5 billion to \$10 billion over 10 years.”

These costs do not include the costs to administer the billions of dollars authorized for new grant programs. CBO acknowledges that there will be significant costs associated with these programs, but has not yet had an opportunity to review administrative costs associated with the myriad of new programs created by this bill.

For example, the workforce title of this legislation alone creates 20 new programs and authorizes \$2.4 billion annually in new

spending over current levels, not including many of the programs which are authorized only at “such sums.” That means we’re authorizing a *minimum* of a 34 percent increase in the HHS agency (HRSA) that administers these programs.

The prevention and wellness title of this bill authorizes an additional 13 new programs—not to mention a \$15 billion slush fund to create new programs or projects as the Secretary sees fit.

It is more than reasonable to assume that these factors together will lead to at least 10,000 new HHS bureaucrats— but the number is likely far higher.

This amendment is about setting priorities.

Our national debt is now over \$12.5 trillion and our federal government employs 2.7 million people in the executive branch.

This legislation does nothing to root out the waste and excesses in current programs, while massively expanding the government’s administration of health care in this country.

My staff alone has identified over \$350 billion in federal waste, fraud, and abuse. It would not be difficult to cut costs, reduce duplication, and eliminate programs to slash 25,000 current employees—less than 1 percent of the current federal workforce.

But even then, most Americans are questioning why we just passed a massive government takeover of our health care system that significantly expands the size and scope of the federal government.