

## SENATE HEALTH BILL BREAKS PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PROMISES

### Health reform will not raise taxes “one penny” on American families making under \$250,000 annually.

- **PROMISE:** On August 8, 2008, then-Senator Barack Obama stated, “if you're a family making less than \$250,000 a year, my plan won't raise your taxes one penny—not your income taxes, not your payroll taxes, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes.” On September 12, 2008, then-Senator Obama said, “I can make a firm pledge. Under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase. Not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes.”
- **MAJORITY'S BILL:** The Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) has provided staff with a distributional analysis of four of the major tax provisions in the Reid bill - (1) the advance-refundable tax credit for health insurance, (2) the high cost plan tax, (3) the medical expense deduction limitation, and (4) additional Medicare payroll tax. **Nearly 4 in 10 --38 percent -- of people earning less than \$200K will see tax increase.**
- **MAJORITY'S BILL:** The average premiums would increase by \$2,100 for a family policy in the individual market, according to the *Congressional Budget Office*.

### If you like the health plan you have, you can keep it.

- **PROMISE:** On October 7, 2008, then-Senator Obama stated “If you've got health care already, and probably the majority of you do, then you can keep your plan if you are satisfied with it.”
- **MAJORITY'S BILL:** The bill has a “grandfathering clause,” but any change or update to an existing policy would cause it to evaporate. The bill includes heavy-handed federal rating rules which effectively permanently nationalize health insurance. Now Uncle Sam will be telling all Americans it is *illegal* not to have insurance, and the federal government will dictate what kind of health insurance Americans buy and what that health insurance covers.

### Health reform must be paid for my reducing waste, fraud, and abuse.

- **PROMISE:** On September 9, 2009 President Obama said “The only thing [my] plan would eliminate is the hundreds of billions of dollars in waste and fraud, as well as unwarranted subsidies in Medicare that go to insurance companies – subsidies that do everything to pad their profits but don't improve the care of seniors..... Reducing the waste and inefficiency in Medicare and Medicaid will pay for most of [my] plan.”

- **MAJORITY’S BILL:** Slashes \$464 billion from Medicare – even though the Administration’s own actuary said this level of cuts could bankrupt hospitals and threaten patient care. Only generates less than \$2 billion from reducing waste fraud and abuse – and that is not primarily in Medicare or Medicaid. <sup>i</sup>
- There is an estimated \$100 billion in Medicaid and Medicare waste, fraud, and abuse each year. Technologies exist which would capture these taxpayer dollars before they go out and payment.

### **Health reform will not use taxpayer funds to pay for abortion.**

- **PROMISE:** On September 9, 2009, President Obama stated “no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions.”
- **MAJORITY’S BILL:** The bill breaks with long-time precedent and allows taxpayer funded elective abortions.

### **Health reform will reduce costs to American families and consumers.**

- **PROMISE:** On February 21, 2008, then-Senator Obama stated “my belief is the reason that people don't have [health insurance] is not because they don't want it, but because they can't afford it. And so I emphasize reducing costs.”
- **PROMISE:** On September 9, 2009 President Obama stated, “We spend one and a half times more per person on health care than any other country, but we aren't any healthier for it. This is one of the reasons that insurance premiums have gone up three times faster than wages. It's why so many employers -- especially small businesses -- are forcing their employees to pay more for insurance, or are dropping their coverage entirely. It's why so many aspiring entrepreneurs cannot afford to open a business in the first place, and why American businesses that compete internationally -- like our automakers -- are at a huge disadvantage. And it's why those of us with health insurance are also paying a hidden and growing tax for those without it -- about \$1,000 per year that pays for somebody else's emergency room and charitable care.”
- **PROMISE:** On September 9, 2009 President Obama “The plan I’m announcing tonight... will slow the growth of health care costs for our families, our businesses, and our government.”
- **MAJORITY’S BILL:**
  - **FAMILIES:** “Raise insurance premiums by at least 10 percent by 2016...the Congressional Budget Office said on Monday.” *Reuters*
  - **BUSINESSES:** Failing to comply with Washington’s new job-killing mandates would face new taxes totaling \$28 billion, according to the CBO.
  - **TAXPAYERS:** “Under the legislation, federal outlays for health care would increase...about \$160 billion over 10 years...” *Congressional Budget Office*

- **OVERALL:** “In discussions with dozens of health-care leaders and economists, I find near unanimity of opinion that, whatever its shape, the final legislation that will emerge from Congress will markedly accelerate national health-care spending...” *Dr. Jeffrey Flier, Dean of the Harvard Medical School*

### **Health reform will protect Medicare benefits.**

- **PROMISE:** President Obama on September 9, 2009: “So don't pay attention to those scary stories about how your benefits will be cut... That will never happen on my watch. I will protect Medicare.”
- **MAJORITY'S BILL:** “Congress' chief budget officer on Tuesday contradicted President Obama's oft-stated claim...The head of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, Douglas Elmendorf, told senators that seniors in Medicare's managed care plans could see reduced benefits...” *CBS News*
- **MAJORITY'S BILL:** “Providers... might end their participation in the program (possibly jeopardizing access to care for beneficiaries).” *Obama Administration Chief Actuary of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.*

### **Health reform will ensure choice of physicians.**

- **PROMISE:** “Comprehensive health reform should... guarantee choice of doctors and health plans.”
- **MAJORITY'S BILL:** According to the Congressional Budget Office, Medicaid would be the only health care option for 60 million Americans.

### **Health reform will include tort reform to get rid of junk medical liability lawsuits.**

- **PROMISE:** “I want to work with the AMA so we can scale back the excessive defensive medicine that reinforces our current system, and shift to a system where we are providing better care simply -- rather than simply more treatment. So this is going to be a priority for me.”
- **MAJORITY'S BILL:** Only includes a meaningless “Sense of the Senate.”
- **MAJORITY'S BILL:** Numerous media outlets have reported that the AMA cut a deal with Senate leadership to NOT push for tort reform, in exchange for endorsing a quarter of a trillion dollar deficit spending bill on Medicare payments to physicians which failed in bipartisan opposition several weeks ago (Stabenow, S. 1776).

## All health reform negotiations will be televised to the public.

- **PROMISE:** On July 21, 2008, then-Senator Obama stated, “What we will do is, we’ll have the [health care] negotiations televised on C-SPAN, so that people can see who is making arguments on behalf of their constituents, and who are making arguments on behalf of the drug companies or the insurance companies.”
- **MAJORITY’S BILL:** “But now, as a Senate vote on health-care legislation nears, those negotiations are occurring in a setting that is anything but revolutionary in Washington: Three senators are working on the bill behind closed doors.” *The Washington Post*
- **MAJORITY’S BILL:** Includes sweetheart deals for some states but not others, includes deals for AARP and drug companies which will increase their revenue by millions and millions of dollars.

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<sup>i</sup> [http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/107xx/doc10731/Reid\\_letter\\_11\\_18\\_09.pdf](http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/107xx/doc10731/Reid_letter_11_18_09.pdf), page 15