



Action Alert

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No Mandates!

As the battle for health care reform intensifies, we must remember that no legislation can pass the U.S. House of Representatives without the approval of Nancy Pelosi, a supporter of government-run health insurance. Whether Democrats will continue to insist upon a public plan or whether they'll attempt to disguise it as an individual mandate remains to be seen.

The uproar by concerned Americans during the August Congressional recess cast doubt upon the passage of a transparently government-run insurance program. However, we may still see government-run insurance should Congress mandate that all Americans obtain insurance. For those who cannot afford it, the government will likely provide subsidies for insurance plans that meet the government's criteria. If Americans choose to go without insurance, the government will fine (read: tax) them based upon their income and family size with the minimum fine set at \$750.¹

The proposed legislation will likely force insurance companies to develop plans with extremely generous (read: costly) benefits to satisfy the myriad of special interest groups that liberals need at the table in order to pass a bill. If those companies refuse to comply with The White House and Congress, they'll be disqualified from the opportunity to increase their revenues by insuring those eligible for subsidies under the mandate. In essence, if Washington politicians and bureaucrats deem what is acceptable in an insurance plan, Washington controls your healthcare. Will the insurance industry acquiesce to this bureaucratic intrusion in order to increase their customer base and receive Federal monies? Corporatism anyone?

Conservatives must oppose legislation that mandates individuals obtain health insurance or face a penalty. In addition, we must keep in mind that our Constitution limits the Federal government's ability to interfere with the many powers reserved to the states and to the people. Unless a lost section of the Constitution that enumerates healthcare powers to the Federal government turns up, no grounds exist for Washington, D.C.'s proposed power grab.

¹ Ellis, Ryan. "Top Five Tax Fibs From Obama's Health Speech". Americans for Tax Reform. 10 September 2009. <http://www.atr.org/top-five-tax-fibsbr-obamas-health-a3834>.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) **Call your elected officials and urge them to oppose insurance mandates. Their contact information can be found at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.**
- 2) **Distribute this *Action Alert* to your networks.**

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