

Why is a Washington Takeover of Health Care Wrong for America?

- **You and your family will wait longer for the care you need.** Americans in Massachusetts must wait up to 100 days to see a primary care physician as a result of that state's health reform, which is serving as a model for several plans in Congress. Patients in Canada's government-run system sometimes wait a year or longer to get radiation therapy for cancer. More than 800,000 Canadians are on wait lists for care, and many come to the U.S. for life-saving treatment.
- **You will likely lose your private insurance.** Many Americans would lose their private health insurance and be prodded into joining a government plan. The non-partisan Lewin Group estimates that 119 million individuals will lose their private insurance – even if they are happy with their current coverage – if a government-run “public option” is instated by Congress.
- **You could be denied life-saving care.** Earlier this year, Congress approved funding for a national board to oversee the “effectiveness” of health care services. It is modeled on the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) in Great Britain, which rations care on a cost-benefit basis through the British National Health Service. NICE calculates the value of extending human life, and won't pay for the care it deems too expensive.
- **Survival rates will likely decrease.** Survival rates for deadly diseases could go down if Washington takes control over health care. Countries where government runs health care have much lower survival rates than here in the United States. In the United Kingdom, a breast cancer patient is 88 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than an American patient.
- **The proposed changes will weaken our already feeble economy.** Proposals calling for an employer mandate will reduce jobs by making it more costly to hire workers. At a time when we have double-digit unemployment, government shouldn't be hurting incentives to hire workers. An employer mandate could cost businesses more than \$50 billion per year and put over 15 million Americans at risk of unemployment or slower wage growth.
- **Health insurance premiums would likely increase.** A new government agency would define “acceptable coverage” for all Americans, driving up the cost of premiums with numerous mandates and regulations. The Council for Affordable Health Insurance calculates that premiums could be 75 to 95 percent higher under regulations now proposed in Congress.
- **Additional taxes would be added as penalties.** Many of the “health care reform” proposals in Congress include mandates that would force individuals to buy insurance that meets expensive new regulatory requirements imposed by DC bureaucrats. Millions of low-income Americans would be forced to buy expensive health insurance or pay a fine.

Please visit **JoinPatientsFirst.com**, and sign the
“Hands Off My Health Care” Petition.