

## ***THE GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE – WHAT CONSERVATIVES NEED TO KNOW***

November 2, 2009

On October 29, 2009, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and congressional Democrats released their latest version of a government takeover of America's health care system. These are the cold hard facts that conservatives need to know about this proposal.

- The Democrats' *Affordable Health Care for America Act* (H.R. 3962) is the antithesis of **patient-centered reform** that empowers Americans to truly own and control their health coverage and provides more choices, more competition, more innovation, higher quality and lower costs.
- In deciphering the ins and outs of the new health care system, Americans will have to get familiar with a host of new **czars and bureaucrats**, including the Health Benefits Advisory Committee (Sec. 223), the Health Choices Administration and the Health Choices Commissioner (Sec. 241).
- Americans can say goodbye to **personal, private insurance** as individual health insurance coverage is grandfathered out of existence (Sec. 202) and more limitations are added to health savings accounts (Sec. 531 & Sec. 533).
- Fears of **government-run health care** are alive and well with experts saying the government health insurance plan (Sec. 321) will force tens of millions out of their existing coverage.
- The **U.S. Constitution and the principle of limited government** are tested as never before by forcing Americans to purchase "acceptable" health care coverage or face a tax of 2.5% of modified adjusted gross income (Sec. 501).
- **Trial lawyers** get off scot-free as Democrats pay lip service to real medical malpractice reform, opting to hand over money for lawyer-friendly "alternatives" (Sec. 2531) instead of limiting attorneys' fees or capping damages.
- Washington goes after **employers**, by mandating they provide health care coverage or pay a tax equal to 8 percent of wages (Sec. 512), and **S Corp filers**, by instituting a 5.4 percent surtax on taxpayers (Sec. 551).
- More low-income individuals (now up to 150% of the federal poverty level) will be pushed onto the rolls of Medicaid (Sec. 1701) leaving already over-stretched **State Governments** to pick up the tab.
- Future costs will be borne by **your children and grandchildren**. A preliminary analysis by the **Congressional Budget Office** estimates that the true cost of the bill is \$1.055 trillion.
- It permits federal funds to be spent on **abortion** services (Sec. 222).
- Community organizations like **ACORN** may assist the Health Choices Commissioner in enrolling individuals in the Health Insurance Exchange (Sec. 305).
- **Members of Congress** are not subject to the same health care system Americans will have to live by under the public health insurance option (Sec. 330).

