WHAT HEALTH REFORM IS NOT

MISLEADING STATEMENTS,
DISTORTIONS,
AND MISPERCEPTIONS

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Creighton University
What Health Care Reform is NOT

It is **NOT** a government takeover of health care. There are **NO NEW** government health care programs; only those that already exist

- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Veterans Administration
- Military Health Care
- Indian Health Service

All the rest will be provided by the same insurers or employers and private and public providers as now. There will be greater choice of insurers than now. About 30 million more people will have private insurance when fully implemented.
What Health Care Reform is NOT

In fact, there is a reduction of government provided insurance:
Members of Congress and their staffs will be phased out of the FEHBP and into the exchanges (2014)

It is NOT a budget buster.

2010-2019
Net Federal costs of coverage expansion $789 billion
Net Federal revenue and savings 932 billion
Deficit reduction $143 billion

CBO March 20, 2010
What Health Care Reform is NOT

It will **NOT** impose enormous new Medicaid costs on Nebraska.

Most credible estimates conclude that increased Medicaid coverage will increase state Medicaid costs 1.5-2.2%.

Medicaid expansion alone will decrease the number of uninsured Nebraskans by 50,000-71,000 thousand.

And will bring $2.3-2.7 billion in new Federal funds to Nebraska.
Lies, Distortions & Misperceptions

Health Care Reform will NOT lead to euthanasia

“. . .a treacherous path toward government-encouraged euthanasia” John Boehner (R-OH)

“. . .put seniors in a position of being put to death by their government.” Virginia Foxx (R-VA)

“. . .my parents or my baby with Down Syndrome will have to stand in front of Obama’s ‘death panel’ so his bureaucrats can decide . . .whether they are worthy of health care.” Sarah Palin

“We should not have a government program that determines if you're going to pull the plug on grandma.“ Chuck Grassley (R-IA)
Lies, Distortions & Misperceptions

Health Care Reform will **NOT** lead to rationing of care

“Democratic legislative proposals will lead to health care rationing.” Sarah Palin

“What the Democrats’ plan is going to do is ration care.” John Boehner (R-OH)

“The only way the government can control costs is by denying you things, by rationing care.” Mike Rogers (R-MI)
Lies, Distortions & Misperceptions

Reform does **NOT** cut Medicare services

“harmful cuts” to Medicare that would “result in millions of seniors losing their health coverage.” Mike Pence (R-Ind)

Reformed health care does **NOT** cover illegal immigrants.

H.R. 3200 "was written to allow illegal alien adults into the program” Tom Tancredo (R,CO)

Reform does **NOT Tax** your health benefits

"you will be required to pay taxes" on "the value of whatever health insurance you are given by the company.“ Anon e-mail
Lies, Distortions & Misperceptions
Insurance premiums will NOT increase enormously

“Obamacare Increases Health Insurance Premiums”
Heritage Foundation

“If you've got health insurance, get ready for higher premiums to pay for the health care bill.” Forbes magazine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Coverage</th>
<th>Nongroup</th>
<th>Small Group</th>
<th>Large Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in premiums before accounting for subsidies or those without subsidy</td>
<td>+10 to +13%</td>
<td>+1 to -2%</td>
<td>0 to – 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of those receiving subsidies</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in premiums for those subsidized</td>
<td>-56 to -59%</td>
<td>-8 to -11%</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Congress Budget Office analysis H.R. 3590

Center for Health Policy and Ethics
Reform does **NOT** provide government funding of abortion

“. . .the dangerous Obama health care bill, which mandates abortions, paid for with American tax dollars.” Chris Smith (R-NJ)

“If that frightened, unemployed 19-year-old knows that she and her child will have access to medical care whenever it's needed, she's more likely to carry the baby to term. Isn't it obvious?” Cardinal Basil Hume
Public opinion is **NOT** “overwhelmingly” opposed to the Affordable Care Act

“…Democrats forced their health care bill on the public that overwhelmingly opposed it.” Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)
As you may know, a new health reform bill was signed into law earlier this year. Given what you know about the new health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls

Center for Health Policy and Ethics
Tell me your opinion of the following: very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Net Favorable</th>
<th>Net Unfavorable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance Exchanges</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Credits for Small Business</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gradually closing the Medicare “doughnut hole”</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Risk pool for individuals with pre-existing conditions</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium and out of pocket subsidies</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young adult coverage under parents insurance until age 26</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid expansion</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal review &amp; approval of health plan premium increases</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requiring insurers to guarantee issue</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliminating caps on lifetime limits of benefits</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase Medicare tax on high earners</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federally defined minimum benefits</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require all Americans to have health coverage</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (June 17-22, 2010)
Some Useful Sources of Information

Kaiser Health Reform Gateway
http://healthreform.kff.org/

Commonwealth Fund
http://www.commonwealthfund.org/

The Dartmouth Atlas
http://www.dartmouthatlas.org/

NEJM Health Care Reform Center
http://healthcarereform.nejm.org/

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
http://www.rwjf.org/healthreform/

The Urban Institute
http://www.urban.org/health/index.cfm

FactCheck.org
http://factcheck.org/

PolitiFact.org
http://politifact.org/truth-o-meter/

And some places to check the truth about suspect statements.